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"Conversations" With a President

BY CARRIE SPIROS '00
NEWS EDITOR

The juxtaposition was striking. Inside nine students and ten administrators sat discussing the issues of most concern to them and outside, with ID cards and signs pushed up against the glass doors of Aquinas Lounge, forty students protested the meeting for being shut out of the event.

This was the scene, Decem-

ber 8th from 4-5:30 inside and outside of Aquinas Lounge, when Fr. Philip Smith O.P. initiated what he is calling "Conversations with the President and the Administration."

"I view this as an experiment,"

said Smith in an interview with *The Cowl*. "My hope is that it would be a forum where they can raise questions important to them and we can respond to them in ways that make sense to them."

The people invited to the "Conversations" were chosen at random. The goal was ten students from each class as Smith said, "This is so I could get a cross section of the population."

Out of the forty invited, eleven showed up to participate and nine ended up staying. Fr. Smith cited the omission of an RSVP as a problem that contributed to the low numbers. Students were carded at the door by added security that was in and around the building.

Fr. Smith came prepared, surrounded by many top members of the administration. Besides Fr. Smith, present at the meeting were: Edward J. Carron, Vice President of College Relations; Michael V. Frazier, Chief Financial Officer; Christopher Lydon, Dean of Enrollment Management; Herb D'Arcy, Executive Officer for Financial Aid; Dr. Thomas P. Canavan, Vice President of Academic Administration;

Counsel for the College, Mary Francis McGuinn; and Fr. J. Stuart McPhail, Vice President of Student Services.

When Fr. McPhail was asked why he attended, he responded, "I am

here in case questions arise that require specific details ... This is a chance to hear from the College's most precious assets, its students."

There was no set agenda, al-

though Admissions was set forth as a starting point. The students inside were very vocal, and their concerns included admission policies, diversity on campus, housing, Martin Luther King

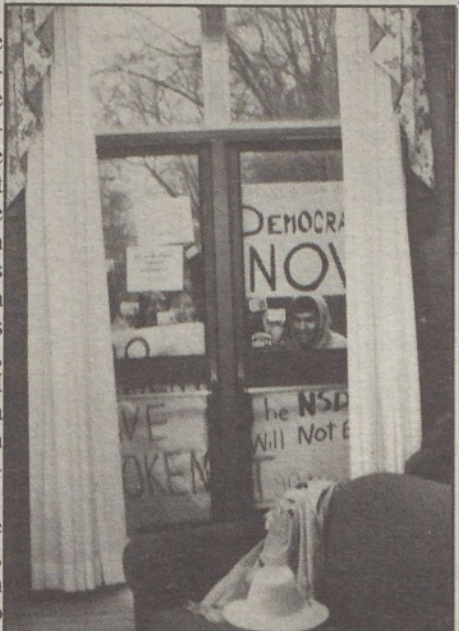
scholarships, the financial aid process, Sodexo food services, loss of scholarships for those who go abroad as well as the obvious

"Conversations", Page 4



by Jed Kukowski '00

Fr. Smith talks with students.



by Jed Kukowski '00

Students outside looking in.

BY REBECCA PIRO '00
ASST. NEWS EDITOR &
CAYLEN MACERA '01
NEWS STAFF

Once again, the effort to open the lines of communication at PC has been made.

The Democracy in Action (DIA) group of PSC 344 Ancients and Moderns class presented a Communications Workshop Wednesday night in '64 Hall.

Open to students, faculty, and administration, the forum was "the culmination of our learning experience in political thought," said class member Kristen Scioli '00.

The goal of Wednesday night's informal setting was "for participants to gain a better understanding of different perspectives on campus," said member Lauren Skryzowski '99.

Taught by Dr. Richard Battistoni, Professor/Director of Political Science and PSC 344, the workshop was the semester-long project for the twenty-three students in the group.

Unsuspecting participants filed into '64 Hall, and were divided into seemingly random groups by color. Once seated, the groups attempted to solve hypothetical situations pro-

posed by forum leaders Larry Cristini '99 and Skryzowski, and brought their results up to the Board for review. But when the majority of the groups were turned down repeatedly, disgruntled members began to protest.

The discussion which followed the workshop led participants to realize the forum was structured to represent the obstacles present on campus impeding efficient communication lines. The student's table contained only paper and crayons. The Administration, however, had plenty of pens as well as drinks served to them by students representing security guards. The lights over the student's tables appeared to be not working, while the lights shone brightly over the Administration's tables.

"[As a student], you're no match against administration or a Dominican. Obviously, [the board] isn't going to listen to what you say," commented a student.

One participant who played the role of an administration member said, "We were definitely administration. I think just about anything we could have said, within reason, would have been accepted by the board."

Another student interjected, "We are an institution run by hierarchy. Only the right people get ideas through."

"It [the forum] had its moments. Things like this in the future are beneficial, but do not take the place of adequate student representation. More needs to be done," commented another student.

Some participants touched upon issues concerning Tuesday night's "Conversations with the President and the Administration" initiated by Rev. Philip Smith O.P., President of PC. Students voiced their concerns about the individuals denied admittance to Tuesday's session.

Rev. Terence J. Keegan, O.P., spoke for Fr. Smith. "Fr. Smith wants to hear what students at PC are interested in. Fr. Smith is going to speak with students in a proper form, in a proper way."

According to another participant, "People [students] have gone through all the ineffectual channels of communication, but they are taking things into their own hands."

Another issue addressed at the forum was the faculty's role

Communications, Page 5

A New PC Tradition

Discovery Weekend Held to Invite Local Minorities

BY KRISTIN DIQUOLLO '02
NEWS STAFF

The Balfour Center and the Admissions Center sponsored PC's second Discovery Weekend from December 4-5.

Discovery Weekend is a student-led initiative program that aims to expose minority high school students in Providence to opportunities in higher education. It was founded last year through the efforts of students Rele Abiade '99, Gloria Anglon '99, and PC graduate Joaquin Fonte '98.

The high school students are selected from various schools in the greater Providence area, with a focus placed on recruiting juniors and seniors. However, before being chosen to participate in the program, they had to partake in an application process that includes meeting certain criteria such as minimum GPA, a recommendation from a faculty member, and a personal statement.

According to Abiade, "It [this weekend] went off really well."

Upon their arrival at PC, the high school students, or

mentees, were matched with a PC student as a mentor. The match is based upon interests in major and career. After the meeting, the mentees attend classes with their mentors where they have the opportunity to experience the college learning environment.

Also scheduled for Friday was a major/minor fair and a tour, which allows the students to ask questions they have about PC's programs or the campus itself. They also had the opportunity to attend the talk given by Edward Scott, a Black Studies speaker, which was held on campus.

The night ended with a cultural dinner in Feinstein and a party in Stuart's, after which the mentees spent the night in their mentor's dorm room or apartment.

Saturday's schedule was much more busy than Fridays.

After a continental breakfast, the students attended workshops. They covered various issues including financial aid, the application process, how to write the application essay, and student life.

In reference to the student

life panel, Abiade states, "I think it is most important and most effective. I am really excited about this group of people because they really represent what PC has to offer."

The program came to a close Saturday afternoon with a ceremony where the mentees received a certificate from their mentors. Dr. Wilesse Comissiong, Dean of the Balfour Center, also gave closing remarks.

However, the mentor/mentee relationship goes beyond the weekend. The pairs form a bond and will remain in contact with each other. The students are also required to attend follow-up sessions later in the year to check on their progress and share their experiences about Discovery Weekend.

This year's Discovery Weekend proved to be just as much a success as last years.

According to Abiade, all the students who attended this year expressed interest in going to PC, whereas last year, many of

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City Beats

With the holiday season in full swing, here is a list of holiday happenings in the Providence area...

Food for Fines

The Phillips Memorial Library is sponsoring its annual Food For Fines program. This is a good opportunity to clear overdue fines and to provide food for the needy. The library will clear one dollar in fines for each can of food brought in between December 1 and December 22. The PC chaplain's office will distribute the food to needy families. For further information contact ext. 1422.

OOP!

OOP! Contemporary Gift Gallery, 297 Thayer Street, is collecting letters to Santa from children and writing them a letter in return on Santa's letterhead. OOP! will be sending the letters FedEx to the North Pole where they will be postmarked and mailed back to each child.

Fleet Skating Center

Providence's new skating rink, The Fleet Skating Center, is finally completed. The rink is open Sunday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Also on the weekends, Friday 10-1, 2-6, 6-10, and a late night session from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday 11-2, 2-6, 6-10 with a late night session from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Admission is \$3.75 for adults; children under 12, and adults over 65, \$2.75 for a four hour session regulated by a color-coded ticket. Ice will be made until April.

Holiday Specials on Television

Everybody's favorite holiday specials return to television this season, including: *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas*: TBS: Dec. 24 8 p.m., TNT: Dec. 12 at 4:30 p.m., Dec. 25 at 8 p.m. *A Flintstone Christmas*: TOON: Dec. 13 at 2 p.m., Dec. 24 at 11 p.m., Dec. 25 at 11 a.m. *A Jetson Christmas Carol*: TOON: Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 24 at 9:30 p.m., Dec. 25 at 3:30 and 6:30 a.m. *Pinocchio's Christmas*: FAM: Dec. 21 at 8 p.m. *Rugrats Chanukah*: NIK: Dec. 13 at 10 a.m., Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m. *Smurf's Christmas Special*: TOON: Dec. 13 at 1:30 p.m., Dec. 24 at 1 p.m., Dec. 25 at 5 a.m. *Yogi's First Christmas*: TOON: Dec. 12 at 8 p.m., Dec. 13 at 10 a.m., Dec. 25 at 3 p.m., Dec. 26 at 8 p.m., Dec. 27 at 10 a.m.

Holiday Music Events

Christmas Canticles, featuring music by **While Chamber Ensemble**, Trinity Church, Queen Anne Square, Newport. December 16, 7 p.m. Admission \$8. For more information please contact 847-7590. **Voices of Christmas** carolers, December 19, Blithewold Mansion, 2 p.m. **Chorus of Westerly**, annual Christmas Pops Concert, Performance Hall, 119 High St. 4, 6 and 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10-15. For more information contact 596-8663. **Colors of Christmas**, featuring Philip Bailey, Sheena Easton, Deniece Williams, and Jeffrey Osborne at Providence Performing Arts Center December 22 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$31.50-\$46.50.

Festival Ballet

Festival Ballet will show its newly revised **The Nutcracker** Dec. 10-20. On the same weekend the State Ballet of Rhode Island will present its annual **Coppelia** at Rhode Island College. **A Christmas Carol** at Trinity Repertory will be performed until December 27. Tickets on Dec. 26-27 are \$25. Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. until Dec. 24 tickets are \$30. Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 8 p.m. tickets are \$30. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 12 and 4 p.m. tickets are \$35. Saturday and Sunday at 12 and 4 p.m. tickets are \$35. Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. tickets are \$39. **A Christmas Carol**, Attleboro Community Theatre, 42 Union St., Attleboro. December 11-26. Friday-Saturday 7 p.m.; Sunday 2 p.m. \$10. **For Sentimental Reasons**, Christmas 1944: A live radio show for the troops on the war front, Stadium Theatre, Monument Square, Main Street, Woonsocket. Saturday, December 19, 8 p.m. Tickets are \$8. For more information contact 762-4044.

* Portions of this listing are compiled from www.projo.com.

BY CAYLEN MACERA '01
NEWS STAFF

Inside Congress

Planning for the Future of Providence...

The Steering Committee

The Student Congress established an ad-hoc committee to evaluate the College's Draft Vision Statement II. This subcommittee was charged with two tasks. The first responsibility was a written response on behalf of Student Congress to the Steering Planning Committee. The second task is to formulate a proposal addressing student representation on a continuous planning committee. The future Steering Planning Committee will be involved in the execution and maintenance of the document in the future. The Committee's proposed changes have been posted on the Student Congress webpage. The address is: www.providence.edu/studcong/steering.html

Please contact the Student Congress Planning Committee with any questions, concerns, comments, or suggestions. Thank you for your interest.

Student Congress Steering Planning Committee:

- Laura O'Rourke '99
- William Clifford '99
- Katelyn Connolly '01
- Julie Moore '99
- Eileen O'Gara '00
- Kathleen Powers '99

compiled by Student Congress

Library Hours for Reading & Exam Periods

- Friday, December 11.....8:00am - 11:45 pm
- Saturday, December 12.....8:00 am - 11:45 pm
- Sunday, December 13- Friday, December 18.....8:00 am - 1:00 am
- Saturday, December 19.....8:00 am - 11:45 pm
- Sunday, December 20.....8:00 am - 1:00 am
- Monday, December 21.....8:00 am - 1:00 am
- Tuesday, December 2.....8:00 am - 4:30 pm

An Important Note From Student Services

On three occasions a white male in his thirties or early forties, driving a blue four door sedan, using as a pretext, asking for directions, has exposed himself to college women students.

Please be cautious. If you are approached please keep an appropriate distance from the car. A license plate number would be extremely helpful.

If you have heard about it or have any information please see Fr. McPhail in the Office of Student Services.

Health Notes

How to Avoid Your Roommate's Cold

Common cold, flu, mono, "pink-eye" is a short list of communicable illnesses transmitted from one individual to another by direct or even indirect contact.

How to Avoid:

1. Wash hands frequently- Hands are a major vehicle of bacteria/virus transmission. Plain soap is effective.
2. Avoid close contact with individuals with obvious illness.
3. Cover mouth when sneezing or coughing- If time allows, using a disposable tissue is best. If not, coughing or sneezing into your shoulder is preferred, rather than into your hands unless you can wash your hands immediately.
4. Don't share eating or drinking utensils, towels, or pillows.
5. Air out rooms frequently.
6. Take time to dress properly. When you go outside and become cold and/or wet, you are lowering your resistance by raising your stress level.
7. Get adequate rest.
8. Eat a well balanced diet.

Nurses are available at the student health center from 7:30 AM to 7:30 PM. The doctor is available at 12:00 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday and 9:00 on Wednesday.

Remember- Sign up for Free Meningitis Vaccination Before November 11th at Slavin Information Desk or the Student Health Center.

Any questions please call the Health Center at x2888

Matthew 25

Group Raises AIDS Awareness

BY KATE SCHARTNER '01
NEWS STAFF

Fourteen hundred people are living with AIDS in the state of Rhode Island. Seven people have already died. In honor of National AIDS Week, Rev. Daniel Trainor and Sister Angela Daniels of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church came to Providence College last Thursday, December 4th, at 7 p.m. in Slavin 203 to speak about their AIDS ministry-Matthew 25.

Rev. Trainor explained the title by reading an excerpt from the scripture passage Matthew 25, where Jesus speaks of the last judgment and tells of rewards and punishments based on how people treat the poor.

"What would you do if a mother came up to you and asked you to come with her to the hospital because her son was dying with AIDS?", Rev. Trainor asked the audience. He spoke about how this one incident in 1992 brought about Matthew 25. He added that during that same year more and more mothers were coming to his doorstep with a plea for help.

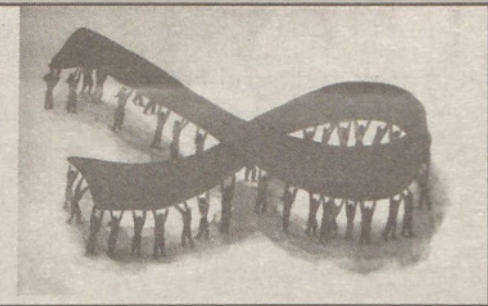
As a result of these incidents, Matthew 25 was officially established in 1993 and consisted of about twelve "clients" infected with HIV or AIDS.

Today, Matthew 25 has 329 clients and about 180 who visit the ministry on a regular basis for support and food. The ministry also helps council children whose parents are infected with HIV or AIDS.

"We are located in kind of a socio-economical hodgepodge," said Rev. Trainor about the location of the ministry. He also pointed out that the majority of their clients

come from this area and because of this they need all of the support they can get.

After Rev. Trainor spoke a bit about the history of Matthew 25, Sister Angela spoke about



AIDS in general, and also about the many ways infected individuals may deal with it.

"I was shocked with how many people were willing to speak about their battle with AIDS and admit that they need help," said Sister Angela. "Especially since we are a Catholic church and many people with AIDS seem to reject the faith."

She pointed out, though, that even the clients who reject the Catholic faith need help. Because of that she and Rev. Trainor will stand by them no matter what may happen.

Sister Angela stated many times that it does not matter where you live or whom you are friends with, anyone can contract AIDS. She spoke about the "It cannot happen to me theory," emphasizing the fact that it definitely can.

Another factor that Sister was concerned with was the lack of AIDS education going on in the schools. She explained that she has been trying to start up a program in local schools, but that school officials are very leery of this idea. They think of AIDS as being a private issue. An example Sister Angela used to explain this was the response she received when proposing her AIDS education program to a local school principle.

"She started whispering as if

someone were going to hear what she was talking about. She was clearly embarrassed to be discussing the topic AIDS on the phone with me," stated Sister Angela. It seemed to frustrate Sister Angela to see so many people ignorant of the illness.

Rev. Trainor also spoke about a house they are trying to purchase for the ministry. It would house all of the clients who could not take care of themselves and cannot afford to live anywhere else. Also, it would be a

place for clients to spend time and get proper attention and counseling.

"Our office, right about now, is the size of a closet. If two people are in there, and a third walks in, one of the three has to leave," explained Sister Angela. "If we get this house we will have room for a much more accessible office."

The Matthew 25 ministry also works in collaboration with the Rhode Islanders Taking Action (RITA) Food Pantry. RITA is a non-profit organization which raises food, money, and even clothing for AIDS victims. The RITA Food Pantry donates large amounts of food regularly to Matthew 25 clients.

In their conclusion, Rev. Trainor and Sister Angela handed out a pamphlet with "True or False" facts about Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome and pointed out that they hope it informs all about the facts and myths about the illness.

In the Spring 1999 semester, the AIDS Outreach Committee of the Pastoral Service Organization will be holding a food drive to help collect food for the clients of Matthew 25. If anyone is interested in volunteering please, sign up in the Chaplain's Office located in Slavin 211.

Dunbar Exposed

A Look at PC's Popular Security Guard

BY CHRISTINE CAMPBELL '01
NEWS STAFF

Although we all know him solely as "Dunbar," his full name is John L. Dunbar, age 30. He has been a well known security officer at Providence College for the past eight years. He was born in West Africa and at the age of two he moved and grew up in New York City, until the early 80's when he moved to Rhode Island.

We are used to seeing Dunbar on foot, biking, or in his vehicle, but what is it that he exactly does? Well, Dunbar along with the other security officers, patrol our campus and parking lots, making sure all our college property is the way it should be, all the buildings are locked, and most importantly, that all the students are safe.

In terms of serious accidents on our campus, he recalls the scariest and most heart-wrenching incident occurred in 1995. Dunbar was called to the scene of Guzman Hall where Christopher R. Pomerleau '99, a current freshman at the time, was experiencing breathing trouble. Dunbar was performing CPR, when Pomerleau passed away in his arms due to heart failure. Only about an hour after the college was coming to terms with the fact that Pomerleau died, Christopher M. Murphy '99 fell from a third floor balcony of an off-campus house, and suffered serious head damage, passing away after being in the hospital. Other than those traumatic episodes, the most serious incidents he had to deal with is intoxicated students and minor altercations.

"My goal is to be a State Police Officer", said Mr. Dunbar.

He knew he wanted to be a policeman after growing up on the streets of Brooklyn and seeing officers helping people. Police officers served as role models for him in New York and Rhode Island. He is grateful to certain police officers in Rhode Island who gave him the opportunity for hands-on experience,

which made him realize his dream of becoming a police officer.

"I love helping people, I am a real people person, and will continue to help people," said Dunbar.

As a teenager he became involved in law enforcement. When he was enrolled in high school he was involved in the Police Explorers Program. He was a member of the Junior R.O.T.C and a volunteer fireman in Cranston, RI. Before coming to Providence College he was a Providence Police Explorer Cadet, when his Captain, who at the time worked at PC, noticed his talent and hired him as a security officer at PC.

Rumor has it PC's popular security guard may be leaving our campus. Dunbar's dream is to be a state police officer, and he believes everyone should pursue what is in their heart.

He is presently involved in a Massachusetts State Police hiring process, which consists of many tests in order to get accepted to the training academy. He is interested in serving in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, or a position down South.

"I am hoping to leave, but it's not carved in stone. I am unsure of what department I will be assigned to. But for right now I am doing my job. PC is a good job, it's a great stepping stone to a higher position," said Dunbar.

"I would like to see myself as a Massachusetts State Police Officer, where is a lot of room for advancement. There are different opportunities such as helicopter patrol to detective," said Dunbar when asked where he would like to see himself in a couple of years.

Providence College campus is extremely safe considering its location in the city and its easily accessible campus.

"Our campus is so condensed to one area, but it is still safe considering its so accessible; and anyone can walk on

Dunbar, Page 5

Cartoon Raises Question of Ethics

BY MEGHAN PERRY '01
NEWS STAFF

The University of Rhode Island's student newspaper, *The Good 5-Cent Cigar*, is facing a shutdown after the publication of a controversial editorial cartoon last Wednesday.

The cartoon depicts a black student entering a classroom at the University of Texas. The professor says to the student, "If you're the janitor, please wait until after class to empty the trash. If you're one of our minority students, welcome!"

The cartoon was not sketched by a URI student but by *San Antonio Express News* cartoonist, John Branch. Branch created the cartoon as a means of showing the racial division and bigotry erupting on the Texas college campus. The main target was a law professor at the University who is noted for saying, "Blacks and Mexican Americans are not academically competitive with whites."

The editors of the URI paper published the year-old car-

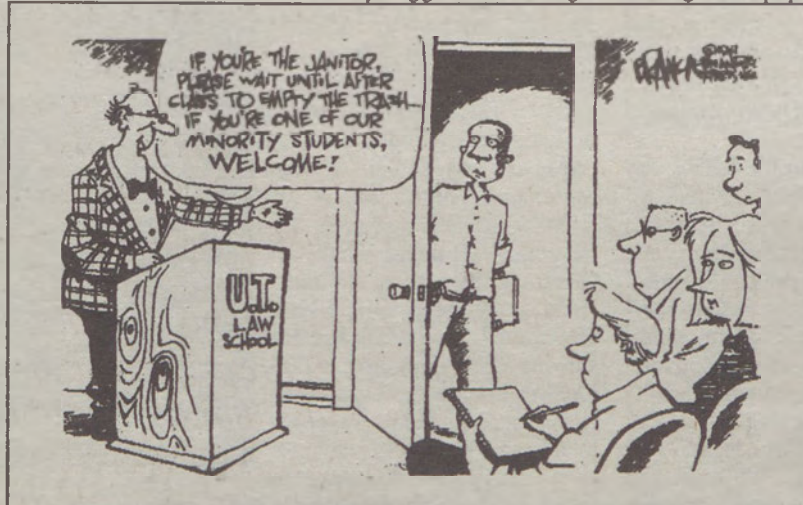
toon because of the growing animosity stemming from affirmative action at their school.

Cigar managing editor Elizabeth Barker felt the graphic would open students' eyes to the pointlessness of racial division. Quoted in *The Providence Journal*, she says, "We ran that cartoon without malice and in fact intended to convey an anti-racist message. We assumed that the cartoon's

pro-affirmative action message would be apparent. We regret that the cartoon may have offended any of the campus constituents."

Many were offended by the

cartoon. Brothers United For Action, a minority group on campus protested following the cartoon's publication. They called for a retraction of the cartoon, resignation of the three editors, and *The Cigar's* shutdown. They suggested creating



another student newspaper that would help "to end the racism, sexism, and homophobia" experienced at URI.

The cartoon issue snowballed into a giant controversy

bringing many different viewpoints to light. One of the largest is the issue of free speech and press.

After members of the Student Senate Executive Committee voted to freeze student financing of the paper, *The Rhode Island Press Association* has joined sides with *The Cigar* amid the turmoil. They will put up \$800 to ensure the paper will continue to be published through the end of the semester.

"We take any effort to silence a newspaper extremely seriously," says Association President Mary Harrington in *The Providence Journal*. "The Student Senate is taking away *The*

Cigar's First Amendment right to publish."

Senate member Ben Clausen even told *The Journal* that the freeze was unnecessary. "We're not in the position to censor it. If we start taking away freedom of the press in this incident, where does it stop?"

In fact, the question of where censorship ends affects the heart of journalism itself. Lines established by a newspaper help dictate where journalistic responsibility lies, but still remain on shaky ground. Issue sensitivity and empathy are often pitted against papers' responsibilities of getting news out to the community at large.

Laura Rodini '01 says, "It's scary to think that one cartoon can shut down an entire newspaper. But the editors should be more aware of the consequences of a cartoon done in bad taste."

Still, the American Civil Liberties Union is a major pro-

URI, Page 5

Jam Fest a Success

Sports Marketing Sponsors Fundraiser

While most of the campus was catching up on some much needed sleep, a group of students (Michelle Cruz, Ernest McNair, Jami Servidone, and Seth Frain) from Professor Horne's Sports Marketing class hosted the Reebok/Anaconda Sports Jam Fest '98 presented by Pick Pockets. Jam Fest '98 was a three-on-three basketball tournament in which twenty-three men's and women's teams came out to show off their skills with all proceeds going to the RI Coalition for the Homeless.

The competition was fierce throughout the tournament with many close games. Doug Ramsey, a participant said, "It was well worth my money, and although we didn't go as far as we wanted, it was still a good time."

WBRU got the crowd going with their own "Name that Tune" extravaganza with everyone guessing to win one of the 'BRU van CD Prize Packs. Only two people walked away with the big Prize Packs, but the rest were happy with their free t-shirts.

The \$250 half-court shot was definitely a nail-biting event

with many close attempts. L. Antsy was the lucky winner. Meliza Escobar won the raffle for the ball signed by NBA player Ray Allen and \$50!

The two prevailing teams went home with trophies, certificates, and Friar Men's signed basketballs. The winners of the Reebok/Anaconda Sports-Jam Fest '98 are the following:

Women's Champs: Shannon Murray, Amy McGowan, Sarah Tracy, V. Johnson, L. Dunne

Men's Champs: Terrance Manning, C. Jenkins, B. Skank, A. Washington

The Reebok/Anaconda Sports Jam Fest '98 was indeed a success. We would like to thank our sponsors: CoCa-Cola, Bradley Cafe, Frain & Associates, Walker Emblem & Badge, Pizza Hut, WBRU, Prime Time, and CVS. We would also like to thank all our volunteers, spectators, and participants for supporting our efforts. We are proud to announce over \$1,400 was raised for the RI Coalition for the Homeless this holiday season and a good time was had by all.

BY MICHELLE CRUZ '00



Participants of the Reebok/Anaconda Jam Fest

The President's "Conversations"

-Fr. Smith-
Continued, Page 1

tension from those students who were demonstrating outside.

The few inside were very vocal but those outside were silent. The students call themselves the "New Students for a Democratic Society" (NSDS), a group which is not recognized by the school. They listened, faces pressed up against the windows to what was being said inside, while holding up signs which read: "If you won't listen to our voices then listen to our silence" and "We have 1600 hundred voices-why won't you listen."

This is a reference to the signatures on a petition that the NSDS circulated, stating a list of demands including: "allowing the creation of a Student Faculty Administration Senate through which all significant legislation and/or decisions affecting the Providence College community must pass...50 percent of all new faculty hired by Providence College are of diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds...doubling of the number of Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarships by the year 2001...pass and implement a mandatory diversity requirement for all Providence College undergraduate students" (from the NSDS, *Petition for Student's*

Rights).

The President was asked by several students for those outside to be let in and be heard. One of those students was Amanda Symmes '00. Symmes was invited to the event and decided, after speaking with Fr. Smith, not to participate in the discussions.

Symmes approached Fr. Smith to ask how the students were selected to participate and then proposed that the students outside be let in. "I felt I was diplomatic," speaking of her approach of Fr. Smith. "I was curious about guest selection, considering out of forty invited very few came and then I proposed that those waiting outside be let in."

When Fr. Smith denied her request, she felt, she had to leave. "It was very difficult for me to leave, I was relinquishing all of the power I would have had in the discussions, but I wanted to make a statement that being part of that conversation wasn't genuine."

He reiterated to the audience inside that he denied their request, stating, "This is my choice." "This group has not been oppressed and they are not being 'picked on.'"

Though two invited decided not to participate, the ones who remained had a lively discussion. One of the topics of much

Changes in R.H.A.

BY RYAN AINSOUGH '02
NEWS STAFF

This year's Residence Hall Association, an organization which is frequently under-appreciated on campus, is taking a pro-active role in improving the campus atmosphere more than it has in years past.

Representatives have increased collaboration with hall directors and floor representatives and planned a greater number and variety of events. In addition, the association as a whole is currently in the process of assimilating itself into a nationwide association.

"I'm very excited about this year," raved President Colleen Flynn, "We have energetic

people...this year will set a precedent for years to come."

The goals of the Residence Hall Association (R.H.A.) are ambitious and noble. First-year advisor Steve Sears describes the organization as "dedicated to educating students in their environments and allowing them to get involved."

The goals reach beyond helping and assisting students, though, to include creating a broader and more active college community. Skills such as leadership, selflessness, cooperation, and commitment, among others, are fostered by R.H.A. activities. Also, many members are interested in expanding the role of the association to include greater involvement in the community at large.

Sears summed up the main goal, "to give the students an opportunity to grow with these skills and use them when they leave here," adding, "the better we can make the world, the better we feel."

The R.H.A. is comprised of twenty four members (an executive board, one president and one treasurer from each residence hall, and an apartment board), but meetings often exceed that number due to participation from other active students.

"It takes a student to step forward and get involved," said

Sears. According to Sears, although the R.H.A. representatives reach out to students, an integral part of the equation is the student who gets involved, takes an idea and runs with it. An example of such an event was the Fennell pool tournament, organized by Jeremy Tonet, with the help of R.H.A. representatives Tom Sanodolski and Ryan Burns. The event was held on December 3.

To give the students an opportunity to grow with these skills and use them when they leave here

Perhaps the most valuable members of the group, however, make up the executive board. This year, the board is staffed by President Colleen Flynn '99, Vice President Dina Bracigliano '99, Treasurer Angela Carr '99 and Secretary Samantha Furci '99. These officers are responsible for holding meetings, keeping track of funds, and keeping people focused. Sears described them as "great guides" and "good educators."

Even so, all representatives play a leadership role. "This year's students are very dedicated to their positions as student leaders as well as people who want to make the community a better place," said Sears.

Currently, the R.H.A. is in the process of becoming affiliated with N.A.C.U.R.H., the National Association of College and University Residence Halls. Nate Buonanno '01 is the student who has been appointed to the post of National Communications Coordinator, who is responsible for heading this process.

The Association is made up of "well over one thousand schools across the nation that keep in constant contact with each other to discuss programs, activities, and issues that have occurred on their campuses," explained Sears. He went on to say, "It allows us the opportu-

nity to learn from other colleges and universities and also to contribute to other colleges and universities." Representatives from Providence College plan to attend a conference in Buffalo, New York some time in late February or early March, as a part of the affiliation process.

The largest event of the year sponsored by the R.H.A. is, without question, the Blind Date Ball. For this semi-formal

dinner and dance, a participant will be set up with a blind date by a roommate or friend. The evening, which is a non-alcoholic evening by informal contract, begins with a pre-party at Stuart's. The couples are then brought by bus to an undisclosed location for a meal and

dancing. The event, which is funded by the profits from activities such as t-shirt contests, will take place in the spring semester.

Another major event is the spring barbecue for the on-campus apartments, which has taken place for the past two years. Many lesser events have occurred as well, including football games, study breaks, pizza parties, and socials. A testament to this year's increased activity is the various Christmas parties occurring in many dorms; something that has not been widely accomplished in years past.

All students are invited to attend the weekly meetings, which take place on Tuesdays in the R.H.A. office in Slavin. These meetings are a time for brainstorming, an opportunity to share what programs were successful and which ones were not, and a chance to address the needs of students in each hall, according to Sears. In addition, all students are encouraged to approach their hall representatives with any ideas they may have for activities or events. In addition to expanding its role, the association is always trying to get more students involved in the process. "We are definitely growing, no question about that," enthused Sears.

sured the audience that there are no plans to build a new dorm or apartment building in the near future. However, he did not rule out the possibility of revamping current buildings on campus.

Another issue addressed was the hanging of signs by certain groups on campus and in par-



ID check at the door

ticular the NSDS. Fr. McPhail stated it is not acceptable to "Put up flyers that are contrary to the mission of the campus or that are hung in inappropriate places." He advocated that stu-

dents should seek approval for hanging up posters or flyers.

Fr. Smith expressed concern as to the content of some of the NSDS flyers in particular. "They take certain words out of context, words that are fundamentally untrue." "We are dealing with sneaky people here, they are not in the genuine search for the truth."

The discussion lasted for an hour and a half and the people outside remained, silent and pacifistic in their protest. The discussion concluded with a question, "Should we have more of these?" The overall answer was yes and there are more planned for next spring.

As to whether there will be a discussion truly open to all students interested with the President, he said, "I will think about it."

The group of administrators left quietly out the front door of Aquinas with Fr. Smith exiting last. He was followed by the silent, peaceful demonstrators to his car while they continued to hold signs and say nothing. Fr. Smith's only words to them as he left, were "Thank you for coming."

Open House for Local High School Students

**-Open House-
Continued from Page 1**

the participants, two of whom are now enrolled as freshmen at PC, were still undecided as to their plans. Only ten students were able to attend the program this year, because it fell on the same weekend as the SAT's.

However, changes may be in the future for Discovery Weekend.

Both Abiade and Anglon will be graduating this spring, and they are trying to plan for their absence by setting up committees and organizing what needs to be done.

"I would be very upset if I came back in a year and it [Discovery Weekend] didn't happen. I don't want it to disappear," expressed Abiade. She does not think that will be the case, because Admissions has

taken the program "under its wing" and "sees it as a valuable program for the PC and Providence community."

There will be another Discovery Weekend in April, which will be geared solely towards high school juniors. The goal will be to capture the students' interest in PC and higher education in general before they begin their application process senior year.

Commissioning feels proud of the efforts given by Abiade and Anglon. She also expresses her thanks to the Admissions Office and the faculty office and she "hopes it [Discovery Weekend] will become a tradition at PC."

Abiade would like to thank Balfour, Admissions and Career Services for their help. "It was a success because everyone really added a little to it."

The Rap On Dunbar

**-Dunbar-
Continued from Page 1**

it at any given time," commented Dunbar.

Recently there has been a problem with car break-ins due to the holiday season. Security has made five apprehensions since then, because of the surveillance cameras and security's ability to stay alert and act quickly.

Dunbar's high respect for the student body at PC has made his job here a positive experience. "I feel the students here at PC are very nice people. The students here are first class, friendly and polite," said Dunbar.

Over Christmas break security takes an extra step to secure all the dorm, apartment and buildings doors. They will be monitoring the campus while the students are not here. He wants the PC student body to know security is here to benefit the students and keep them safe, and compared to other colleges and universities where students are just numbers, here they are a face and a name.

Disciplinary Measures

November 30, 1998

Student Charged with the following:

1. No student ID
(page 37, #5)
Guilty

2. Code of Conduct
(page 37, #8)
Guilty

3. Furnishing False Information to the College
(page 37, #9)
Guilty

4. Noncompliance with College Officials acting in the performance of their duty
(page 37, #15)
Guilty

5. Verbal Abuse of College Officials
(page 37, #17)
Guilty

6. Disorderly Conduct
(page 38, #19)
Guilty

7. Damage to College Property
(page 38, #21)
Guilty

8. Underage Drinking
(page 38, #34)
Guilty

9. False Personal Identification
(page 39, #46)
Guilty

December 2, 1998

Student charged with open container
Sanctions: Disciplinary Probation until May 1, 1999

December 8, 1998

Two students charged with underage drinking and utilization of a quarter keg

1. Underage drinking and utilization of a keg
(page 38, #34)
Guilty

Sanctions:
1. Fine \$350 for each student
2. Disciplinary Probation until May 19, 1999.

December 8, 1998

Use of an illegal drug
(page 39, #35)
Guilty

1. This letter will serve as a disciplinary warning under sanctioning guidelines for the use of marijuana, first offense.
2. Disciplinary Probation until May 15, 1998.
3. \$75.00 Fine.

URI Debate

**-URI-
Continued from Page 3**

ponent of *The Cigar's* freedom. "Freedom of thought and expression," says the ACLU, "is particularly important on the college campuses. The educational forum is where individuals come together to participate in a process of shared inquiry where the success of that endeavor depends on the atmosphere of openness, intellectual honesty, and tolerance for the ideas and opinions of

others, even when hateful or offensive."

Despite freedom, however, the cartoon demonstrates that racial tension still exists and needs to be addressed. Tian Anglin '01 reminds us that despite people's freedom, racism can never be justified and accepted. "I am outraged that they use the First Amendment as their defense to racism," she says. "Does freedom of speech mean freedom of racism?"

Students Discuss

**-Communication-
Continued, page 1**

in the communication conflict, said Battistoni. "I've never seen a faculty so apathetic in years. I've seen them withdraw, refuse to participate, and feel their contributions have been thrown out the window. While faculty can

contribute in teaching, their inability to contribute to the public life of the college is a problem."

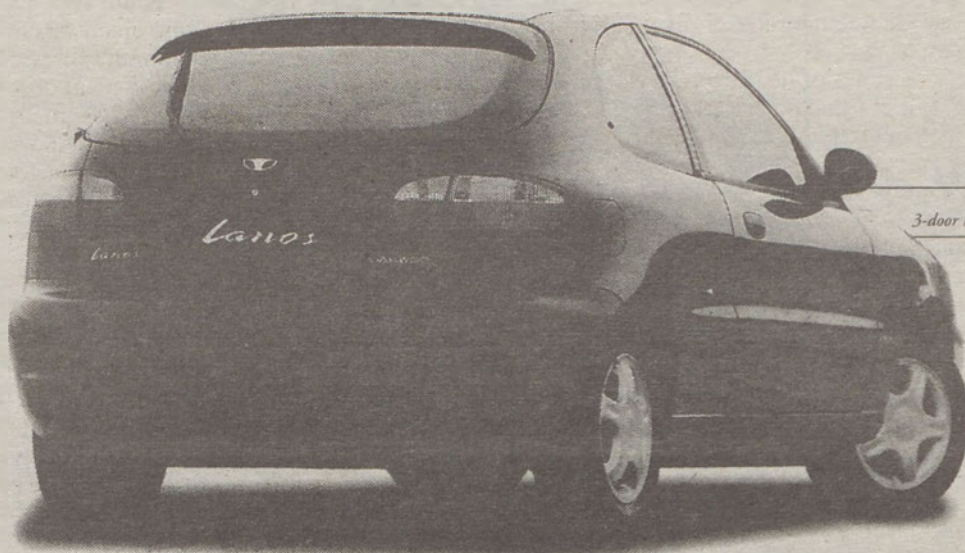
Students were evenly divided over the effectiveness of this workshop. Most appreciated the opportunity for discus-

sion, but many left '64 Hall with unresolved feelings.

"It was good to have the discussion, but I didn't like the fact that it was limited by time. I am not sure it clarified my role any better," commented Kathleen Powers '99.

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A Very Bad Thing

Hollywood's Ill Effects Upon American Popular Culture

BY KIMBERLY CUTRONE '00
ASSISTANT EDITORIALS EDITOR

Some people say that art imitates life. In the case of the Hollywood movie industry, I sincerely hope that life doesn't imitate art. Lately, I've been thinking about the so called dark comedy which was recently released in the movie theaters entitled "Very Bad Things." They were right on track with the title.

A dark comedy is an oxymoron in itself. The genre of the dark comedy turns acts of violence such as murder into a laughing matter in which the American public finds humor in. It's just a little bit morbid, don't you think? Are the lives of the American people so desperate that the American public has to find humor in the killing of innocent lives? The movie "Very Bad Things" stars a known criminal as well as actor, Christian Slater, who is the center of a bachelor party in which the prime attraction is a prostitute. The out-

lence.

Murder should never be viewed as humorous. Perhaps that is why America has such a problem with violent crimes. Society just seems to laugh at serious issues. Even if it is "just a movie," does everyone who views the movie understand that? There's no guarantee that everyone does. There are plenty disturbed individuals in this country who may be getting ideas from a movie with plots that revolve around violent acts. It is not an uncommon event for criminals to use ideas which they have obtained from the media. Hollywood is monopolizing a serious crime, such as murder into money making scheme which perverts the minds of Americans into accepting an outrageously immoral crime and accepting it as a joke. Tabloids and sleazy talk shows have gone too far as well. The American television set has become the information superhighway for smut. When it becomes a danger to society, such as advocating murder, then it is no longer a

If this is humor, then I must have been sleeping the day that murder and prostitution became a joke....Twenty years ago a movie of this caliber would have been banned but in these times it's no big deal.

come is that the guests of the bachelor party take turns having sex with her and then accidentally kill her. If it doesn't seem funny yet, just wait. They then proceed to chop up her remains and the lie to the fiancé. If this is humor, then I must have been sleeping the day that murder and prostitution became a joke.

Twenty years ago a movie of this caliber would have been banned but in these times it's no big deal. In fact, Americans seem to delight in violence. Instead of rejecting this movie because it advocates violence and violations of basic morality, the American public is pooling it's money in support of this movie. America is paving it's own road to a destructive future. The rate of crime and violence have increased in this country over time and the media continues to promote it. Hollywood is also the center of such promotion. Millions of dollars are earned every year in Hollywood from the profits of movies which advocate murder and vio-

lence.

If bachelor parties in America began to employ prostitutes, not only would the STD statistics rise but prostitution will be accepted as a trend. Where will it end? It would all be comedy if there was no possibility of these things occurring in real life, but unfortunately our world does not have the luxury of preventing such an event. If America is at the point where it is willing to accept movies such as "Very Bad Things" today, then I fear to speculate the state that our country will be in twenty years from now. What will be the limits of comedy in the future? Laughing "Very bad Things" renders immoral acts and violence as a joke when they should be viewed as serious offenses. Not only is "Very bad Things" a very bad movie, but it's doing very bad things for American society.

Eureka !

By MARCUS DOWLING '00
EDITORIALS EDITOR

"Eureka!" This past weekend, I experienced an epiphany. No, not your garden variety, "this is the meaning of my life" type, but much rather, one which defines the existence of student life at our very own college. On December 4-5, 1998, I had the privileged honor of being a mentor in the Discovery Weekend program on campus. This program allows talented and interested minority youth from the Providence area the opportunity to visit and enjoy the Providence College campus. I, as a mentor had the objective of providing a truthful, adequate picture of this college, and college life in general to my mentees. I made a point to discuss the pitfalls of DWC, the quirks of dormitory living, and the unstable quality of Raymond Cafeteria cuisine.

However, when asked to describe college life, most specifically the access which one has to authority, I was presented with two options. I

stacles, suffer grave embarrassment due to the usage of a non-student maintenance worker to represent minorities on this campus.

The headlining stories mentioned above only begin to grasp at the callous injustices perpetrated against the students of this campus by the administration at large. Many may state that the occurrences were often not expected or not anticipated, which in fact, makes their occurrence even more shocking. The fact that nearly four thousand tuition paying students of the college were not thought of in high enough regard to either be consulted, or even considered when these situations presented themselves makes a statement which needs no further clarification or understanding. We, as students on this campus lead a second class existence. Second to the lure of money, and prestige of success and power.

Next year, as many realize, the War Memorial Grotto, natural tanning salon to some, hallowed religious space to others, will cease to exist on

As I stated earlier this year, students on this campus needed to take drastic and desperate steps in order to reclaim their existence here at Providence College.

could give a generalized view of my college career, mentioning the friends which I have made, the organizations I belong to, and the events which I have attended...in other words, avoiding the point. Or, I could describe how, to quote superb rock musician Billy Corrgan of the Smashing Pumpkins, "...Despite all my rage I am still just a rat in a cage..." I chose the latter. When dealing with issues which affect the student population on this campus, it seems as though the administration moves with deliberate, often non-existent speed. But, when presented with issues which are beneficial for themselves, the administration completes these initiatives with nearly blinding speed.

Cases in point. Last year, upon entering Providence College, residence hall residents are forced into living in cramped dormitory rooms, often located in spaces which were originally not intended for this usage. Students at Providence College, well known, if not by their attendance, then by their pride, to be rabid supporters of all athletic ventures by their fellow classmates, are surprised when three men's and two women's teams experience debilitating cuts to their programs due to Title IX legislation. Minority students, the long suffering *cause célèbre* on this campus due to our diligent struggles for justice in the face of improbable and disgraceful ob-

that property. In its stead, a three million dollar chapel will be placed. Not that I am against the chapel. I believe that it will serve as a testament to the religious background and morals which the school has committed itself to over the decades. But, the problem which lies with the chapel is that, in the midst of the insanity which has been Providence College over the past few years, the building of the chapel, I believe will serve to be a point of irony. Yes, the school was given a blind donation for the sole purpose of building a chapel, which, as I stated earlier, is a fine idea. But, at this time, when the college seems to be focused on such non-Christian morals as wealth and opulence, the building of a three million dollar chapel seems somewhat ill-timed.

As I stated earlier this year, students on this campus needed to take drastic and desperate steps in order to reclaim their existence here at Providence College. As has been seen this semester, the necessary measures have been taken in order to achieve this goal. Fighting valiantly against the prevailing cash laden, self-interested idealism of the administration, students here at Providence College are now attempting to take back for themselves what should be rightfully theirs. An education, where freedom of speech and expression, as well as the ability to correct the errors of the past, needs to become the accepted norm at Providence College. Hopefully, this will occur.

By MARYSSA REED '00
EDITORIALS STAFF

Most colleges and universities educate and inform students about racism due to its need for acknowledgment. Awareness and ways of assessing the issue are of concern to the college community. With the array of opportunity PC provides its students for education in multiculturalism, it is unsettling to find that racism is still present on campus. In previous weeks, the apartments and dormitories received letters informing the college community that certain students were discriminated against by others at PC. To even have the need for such a distribution is an embarrassment for the college and those who were discriminated against.

An individual who attends PC is here for an education, but it does not end there. We are not here solely to learn facts and figures, but to discover how to interact with others on a mature level whether they may be black, white, yellow or purple. As educated college students and potential professionals, we have a responsibil-

ity to make this world a better place while working toward global unity. In this "melting pot" of a country people are surrounded by white Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and various other ethnic groups. Evidently the racist has a difficult time concluding that we are all Americans in one way or another.

No one has the right to tell someone else how they should feel about other races because we all have a right to our opinions. What concerns me is when individuals put their biased beliefs into action, thus setting fire to racism. For example, a person does not have to like Asian or African Americans, but it is unnecessary to label and discriminate against these individuals. This type of behavior generates the feeling of hate that is something this world does not need. For the longest time I could never understand the rationale for disliking people because of their skin color. Maybe one of you discriminators could enlighten me? I highly doubt that any significant reasoning may be contributed to such a stance. It should be an embarrassment for the discriminator to even al-

low him or herself to be categorized as such. In the real world people have no other alternatives but to learn how to cooperate and get along with others. It is amazing how people believe they can graduate college and enter the working world with the intention of being more worthy than someone else. What are they going to do when the only job position offered has a supervisor that is African or Asian American? Racist comments are surely not going to be useful in raising their position in the hierarchy.

To classify ourselves as educated adults we must analyze what it truly means to be one. I believe an educated individual is aware of his or her surroundings and deals with others in a sophisticated and rational manner. An educated and modern thinker must realize that we are at the verge of the twenty first century and that the "back of the bus" phenomenon is no longer popular. In essence it seems that the discriminators are really the ones that don't fit in. We as people are the only ones who can transform hate into love so let PC be seen as the college that can end the aversion, not contribute to it.

Jerry Springer: Greatest American Hero?

By MEGHAN LANE '00
EDITORIALS STAFF

A few days ago, while killing some time in between classes, I turned on the television and lazily flipped through the channels. The options were bleak: coverage from the Clinton impeachment hearings, "The Newlywed Game", and the usual commercials on MTV. Finally, as I was just about to settle for a rerun of "The Golden Girls", I discovered "The Jerry Springer Show." Being the sucker for trashy television that I am, I decided to waste my time watching the usual subject matter of "I know you're cheating on me...I have proof!". Of course, I wasn't expecting much along the lines of intellectual stimulus, and Jerry didn't surprise me. A good 70 percent of the dialogue had to be bleeped out, but I managed to decipher between the beeps that the young southern woman had been cheating on her husband with a younger man.

The younger man entered the stage and, to my utter amazement, actually did not charge at the husband. He didn't even attempt the infamous chair-throw! It appeared that he might actually be a reasonable man. However, I soon discovered that he was not. Soon into his explanation of why she was cheating with him, he turned to the husband and made the claim that he had everything the woman needed. To emphasize this point, he promptly stood and dropped his pants. Of course, whatever he revealed was blanked out on the screen,

but the audience seemed to love the fact that he did what he did. They stood and chanted the typical "Jerry! Jerry! Jerry!" Alas, their cheers were cut short as Jerry's mammoth, bald bouncer, Steve, suddenly appeared on the stage to drag the young man off, to the crowd's great disappointment.

I began to think, and I realized that I had seen dozens of women on the show remove a variety of articles of clothing, and none were ever escorted off. In fact, I have even seen several episodes in which women with no shirts on were allowed to sit on for the remainder of the show. "Why the double standard?" I wondered. I supposed that maybe Jerry was turning over a new leaf and was no longer allowing nudity on the stage (there go the ratings). But...I was mistaken.

The very next guest was a female who was breaking up with her boyfriend because she had found someone new. In standard "Springer" tradition, that someone new was also female. The two women embraced on the stage, but that was cut short by the "mistress", who turned to face the crowd and ripped off her shirt. She then proceeded to turn and lift her skirt (which barely existed to start with), revealing a thong that was at least several sizes too small. Exposed in such a manner, she strutted her stuff from one end of the stage to the next, for a span of at least three minutes while the boyfriend hid his face in horror. She finally took her seat, still oozing out of her clothing. But where was Steve

the bouncer to drag her off?

I was frustrated, not to mention disgusted, by the events I had just witnessed. Why is it, in a time when men and women should be striving for equal rights, that it is socially accepted that a woman can strip naked, but when a man does the same, it is a sin? If nudity is to be considered inappropriate, it should be considered such regardless of the person's sex. What's more, Jerry's allowance of the woman to reveal what was under her clothes while he would not allow the male to do so seemed to degrade women. Jerry was sending out a message that it is okay for women to exploit their bodies, but men still do not need to do so. Obviously, men and women have a long way to go before achieving equality. Let's just hope that Jerry doesn't get any more involved that he already has.

**Congratulations to
Dan Reed '02....
Looking forward
to your work in
the Editorials
section in '99!!**

**Dear Staff:
Great Job!**

**Sincerely,
Your Editor
P.S.
Happy Holidays!**

Stop the Insanity!

By KAITLYN PRATT '00
EDITORIALS STAFF

He's gone and done it again— this time on nation-wide television. Kevorkian videotaped himself at the dying hour of Thomas Youk, 52, who suffered from Lou Gehrig's disease, at Youk's home on September 17. He gave the tape, which showed an injection being administered, to CBS's "60 Minutes," which broadcast portions of it two Sundays ago. The stopwatch that opens the show could very well have been counting down Kevorkian's time left as a free man. The fatal injection occurred just three weeks after Michigan's assisted suicide law went into effect, making the practice a five-year felony.

Kevorkian, 70, has acknowledged a role in some 130 assisted suicides since 1990, but said Youk's death was his first euthanasia. Kevorkian's face was not shown on the "60 Minutes" video at the point when Youk was being injected, but he said that he was challenging prosecutors to charge him. This is not a new experience, for he has been charged with murder before. However, the charges were dropped by a judge who ruled the state had no law banning assisted suicide. Prosecutors asked that Kevorkian be held without bond, but on "60 Minutes," Kevorkian said he would go on a hunger strike if jailed.

Those are the cold, hard superficial facts. Yet any death,

natural or assisted, is emotional in content. What is the latent driving force behind a man like Kevorkian? He has not admitted to killing anyone. Rather, he has only admitted to terminating suffering. On a website supporting Kevorkian's efforts, I found the following description of his livelihood:

- he helps give them dignity.

- lives, and he imbues their life, and their death, with enormous significance.

- even ridicule, rather than deal with responsibly.

- countries, yet he continues to risk jail and severe public censure here, to assure that euthanasia remains prominent on our society's agenda.

In response to these descriptions, I ask: Should a person be evaluated on the same level as a dog who is put to sleep? While euthanasia can relieve individuals from pain and suffering, it does nothing to prevent others from falling victim to the same maladies. What is needed is better care for all, enhanced medical research— so that people do not have to resort to assisted suicide to relieve their distress.

At the same time, I do not see legal bans as the best solution to a morally contentious problem. There has to be a middle ground somewhere between an individual's right to live and right to die. The question is, Where?

SDS: A Religious Viewpoint

By CLARE GORI '02
EDITORIALS STAFF

The Pledge of Allegiance defines the United States as "...one nation under God...," yet this submission is not apparent in the way those who represent the nation treat each other. More and more frequently the primary focus of political advertisements and campaigns is to libel the opponent rather than to present the candidate's political stances. This practice is not only accepted but even sanctioned by the American public. It is considered both necessary and unavoidable. If we are truly a nation under God then how can we justify slander? If I truly believe that I should love my neighbor as myself, how can I deliberately and publicly deride him? These questions apply to politics at all levels and in all places, even here at Providence College.

Most of the students who attend Providence College are Christians. As a Christian I am called to do as Christ commanded in Luke 10:27-28, "You shall love the Lord your God

with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." What does it mean to love my neighbor as myself and who is my neighbor? My neighbor is anyone I encounter who is suffering. Since all people suffer, my neighbor is potentially everyone, including my enemies. How does this apply to politics on the national and college levels? If I must love my neighbor as myself then the use of slander against a political opponent can never be justified because just as I would never want to be publicly mocked neither would he. One popular attempt at justification is the argument that when a person takes a position which is in the public eye he should expect defamation. That he should expect defamation is true, but that neither justifies it nor makes it "alright".

Since September, the New Students for a Democratic Society has been fighting for a

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An Important Reminder

By JOSEPH DESROSIERS '99
EDITORIALS STAFF

As we are in the midst of the Advent Season, many Christians find themselves thinking of those men, women and children who are less fortunate. The "Season of Giving", or Christmas season, lends itself to a time where we share our talents and blessings which we have received from God our Almighty Father. This might include volunteering at a soup kitchen, donating clothes to a family, or financial contributions to the Salvation Army, United Way or the Red Cross. Fortunately, Providence College aids its students by exposing them to the many opportunities where we can help. As it clearly reads in the mission statement, "Providence College prepares its students to be responsible and productive citizens to serve in their own society and the greater world community". The college endeavors to educate its students to become people who can actively contribute themselves not just during this wonderful season, but throughout the entire year. A few examples of organizations of the college might include the Pastoral Service Organization, Campus Ministry Council, Feinstein Institute for Public Service and Student Services.

It is easy, in the busy world that we live in today, to lose sight of why we strive to contribute

have for our every day lives?" This is what I draw into question. To what extent does Providence College teach in its public service classes that only through the empowerment of the Holy Trinity can such tasks be accomplished? When and where does God play a role in the realm of service according to Feinstein scholars? This is a Catholic institution, is it not? My purpose is not to attack a specific department, but to raise valid questions as regards to faith activity (or should I say, faithless activity) at a Catholic college?

Without Faith as our ultimate beginning point, all else loses ground. There are two ways in which we can build our house - the one, on a sandy or swampy terrain with an unstable foundation as most of the rest of the secular world, trying to imitate and compete with other institutions of higher education who have already lost complete sight of who they are, and the other, being built on a rocky terrain, firm and solid. For to assume that all who enter the gates of Providence College have already been exposed to, understood, and utilized Christianity as their footing for all other activity is ridiculous and absurd! I, as in the past, challenge the college to increase its standards in integrating the Faith to an extent greater than what it has, if at all, in the past. It is not for the sake of increasing the popularity of the Church, yet it is owed to the

Faith, as our foundation for all our actions, must never be placed second to the secular ideology of helping those in need simply because it is the right thing to do or our civic duty.

our services. Faith, as our foundation for all our actions, must never be placed second to the secular ideology of helping those in need simply because it is the right thing to do or our civic duty. This ideology simply stands alone outright when we ask the question why should we care for anyone besides ourselves. From where does the dignity of man spring forth, if not from the One Creator? I shall not enter into the philosophical "proofs" of ordaining human dignity to any such principle outside the faith here. That could be for another article.

Faith must always be the cornerstone of every action of our lives. The mission statement continues that "The College actively cultivates intellectual, spiritual, ethical and aesthetic values within the context of the Judaeo-Christian heritage". It begets the question, "Why then are there so many students who are lost in the vicious circle of where these theology classes fit into the real world? Of what use do they

very dignity of its students. For how long can an institution that claims to prepare its students for the "outside world" throw them into such a world where there is no meaning to man's dignity, where there are people afraid to mention the word "God" in public places or where there is a constant challenge to search for the meaning of life when we have The Truth, the Light, the Answer in our midst and yet fail to share Him with those who need Him the most. The Church is diverse, it is multicultural, politically correct, gender sensitive, ethically sound, overflowing with meaning and the source of content, happiness and true freedom. To withhold this from a student population so lost in a crazy, faithless, meaningless world is more than a transgression against a people so deserving of an answer, it is to question and deny the very Truth to which the college lays claim to have been founded upon.

Furby: Ruining the Christmas Tradition?

By JOSEPH CREAMER '01
EDITORIALS STAFF

What does Furby have to do with Christmas? More than it should. In case you have not heard, Furby is this year's most popular and most difficult toy to find. It is also the homeliest stuffed animal I have ever seen. It makes Gizmo, one of the Gremlins, look cute, and is actually quite similar in appearance. My roommate explains that it is "interactive," which means it is programmed to react differently depending on your actions. It is equipped with a 200 word vocabulary and electronic sensors that respond to motion or touch. The biggest reason I find it revolting is that it has a beak instead of a mouth.

For thirty bucks, you can own your very own burping, whining, and Furbish-speaking (yes, it has its own language!) monster. What are you waiting for? You, like myself, might think no one would buy it, but strangely enough it is the most popular toy this shopping season. Stores have waiting lists. An online auction site has been selling Furbys for two or three times their suggested retail price.

Anyway, what does Furby have to do with Christmas? I think it, and the material aspects, are too large a part of Christmas, when really they ought to be a small display of the more important celebration of Jesus' birth. These material concerns, especially gift buying for everyone, even people who do not need anything, are dwarfing the true importance of the Christmas season.

I do not think that gift-buying is a bad thing in itself, but when children grow to see Christmas as nothing more than the visit of Santa Claus, there is a problem. This sends the message that we value material possessions more than the true spirit of Christmas. For example, in Ohio, a local news channel reported a shoving match at a Cleveland suburb's toy store which had to be broken up by police. Parents were pushing each other and kids were in tears trying to get a limited number of Furbys. Does this incident show children the Christmas spirit, "good will toward men and peace on Earth?" And even more important, will Furby make children truly happy? I think, if children like interactive toys, they would love friends and family who interacted with them much more than an over-priced, ugly ball of fur.

Our society is clearly lacking a balanced perception of what Christmas is truly about. We need to return material possessions to their minor role in the Christmas celebration, and spend time realizing the needs of our fellow human beings instead of shopping.

Letters to the Editor

To The Editor,

This semester there has been a great debate over the effectiveness of our own Providence College Security Department, and the local Providence Police Department. There has been a rash of student cars that have been broken into, and there has also been a substantial amount of off campus break-ins. Most recently, a house on Oakland Avenue was picked clean, with over \$8,000 in property stolen.

Let us start with the Security Department. It seems to me that the main goal of the officers here on campus is to catch and fine students for illegal use of alcohol. Granted, this is an action that is against the student handbook, but should it be their primary concern? Personally, I don't think so.

They are supposed to be on campus for our protection, the protection of our property, and the protection of the whole Providence College community. Lately, they are failing miserably on all three accounts.

For the students, the security department is more like a gestapo force than a protective one. As stated before, they are more concerned with seeking

also seem to have a better chance at getting a gourmet meal on campus than a parking pass. Even if you manage to get permission to drive on campus to get something, or to go to the library, you better hurry because PC security will be there to write a ticket faster than you can say "I have permission."

And who can blame them? You can ask any student on campus; they have either been denied every attempt to get on campus, or they have been let in without so much as a question being asked. Maybe that is the reason stolen property is so rarely discovered on campus. On this score I must say that there is one guard who actually is good at what he does. This person is one of the few security guards who makes students feel safe on campus, and it is a shame that the school is letting him leave. Obviously, this is not an attempt to improve the safety of this community.

Now, to off campus issues. Several houses have been burglarized in the area recently, costing students a great hunk of money. Still, the only time there is an increased police presence in the area is on Friday and Saturday nights when

*For the students,
the security
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gestapo force than a
protective one.*

out underage drinkers than they are the perpetrators of the car break-ins. Security is as tight as a drum when it comes to getting a car on campus, but when it comes to theft, they are as loose as Dom Deluise' pants on Wilt Chamberlain. I for one have seen local children who could not be more than six years old walking in and out of dorms and rooms without any supervision. And, no, they are not members of the Big Brother/Big Sister Program playing Man Hunt.

As for the possible argument that the activities of the possibly underage intoxicated students is detrimental to the welfare of the whole Providence Community, well that does have some merit. It is true that from time to time, heck, maybe every weekend, there are incidents involving PC students who obviously had too much to drink. It is then, necessary to punish these students when they act so. What is getting out of hand is the preemptive strikes against students by, not only security, but also the residence assistants who search bags they think contain alcohol.

There are other areas that PC's security is lacking. In regards to driving on campus to pick someone up or drop someone off, or even go to the ATM, PC security wants a detailed itinerary of your actions before letting you on campus. Students

those rowdy PC drinkers hit the streets. I think that the police should have better things to do than arrest students on open container violations when property is being stolen at an alarming rate. Hey, administrators, how about we hire the police for every night, instead of on just the days they harass students? That seems to be a good way to help the off campus students. But, alas, that would cost money this cost conscious school could spend elsewhere. After all, we are only the students.

The reaction by the school and the city to the security issues facing the students of this college has been pitiful. They seem to be more concerned with catching their own students on minor infractions than catching those who attack students and their possessions. If the school is so concerned about the perception of being a "drinking college", they should look at themselves as the perpetrators of that image. It is through their action that people seem to see PC for the alcoholic haven that it has a reputation of being. Maybe, just maybe, if the college's leaders would come down and deal with a problem facing it's students, such as security, then they would be seen in a better light.

To The Editor,

I went home the Monday before Thanksgiving for the Thanksgiving break because I hadn't been home at all this year. In the taxi, on the way to the airport, I was completely relaxed. For a week, I could forget about the pressures of school and spend time with my family and old friends.

On my flight from Providence to Atlanta, I noticed that out of about 500 passengers, there were maybe four African-American people, six Asian-Americans, and 490 white people. This lack of diversity bothered me - was this a correct representation of the real world? Of course not. Had I taken a train or bus, or even a car, surely I would have more likely seen more members of minority groups than this.

In Atlanta, I was supposed to meet a connecting plane to Lafayette, Louisiana (think 200 miles southwest of New Orleans). The flight attendant named Mitzi who was standing at the gate ineptly tore both my tickets to Dallas and Lafayette because I was one of the last people to board the 747 and she was feeling absent-mindedly surly in the way that only half-smart southern women like Mitzi can. I'm not saying they're all like that - maybe this mood was specific to Mitzi. Besides, that really doesn't matter. It was one of the busiest travel days of the year, and she had a right to be frustrated. I was angry and afraid - would I be able to get on the plane to Lafayette? "Sure, hon, they oughtta let you down thayuh. Just tail thayum it was my fawlt," Mitzi cooed in a warm Georgia patois.

In Dallas, They did not let me on, and I was upset. The next flight to Lafayette was on American airlines, and arrived an hour later than originally planned. So, I called my parents to let them know, then when to the ticket counter to see about hopping on another plane. The guy at the ticket counter fielded my complaints well:

"Do you mean to tell me that because some Georgia debutante named Mitzi was foolish enough to tear my ticket to Lafayette I have to wait a FULL HOUR?"

"I'm sorry, it's just that this is one of the busiest travel days of the year, and our employees are pushed to the very limit of their capabilities. We're doing all we can to rectify your situation," the Ticket Jockey replied.

"Well, my parents paid all of this money so that I can travel on this airline, and I expect to get what I want. You will do as I tell you, or you will suffer."

"Look, we're on it... we do everything we can for our customers. While you wait, why don't you have a few drinks on us - here's a hundred bucks."

"I'm not happy, but I have no other options."

On the plane ride home, I was angry, but I found solace in the fact that in just thirty short minutes, I would be piling my bags in a car to get home, where I could rest. The ride home was smooth - no turbulence at all. I hit the sack be-

fore unpacking, and in the sublime moment just before sleep, I was struck by a revelation concerning what to do about Providence College.

As I'm sure you've heard, some PC students, as voiced by the mighty Students for a Democratic Society (S.D.S.), are unhappy with our lack of cultural and racial diversity. The S.D.S. has proposed four goals to reduce it: 1) Half of all professors hired each year must either belong to a racial minority or be women, 2) The amount of Martin Luther King scholarships must be doubled, 3) Add a Diversity Requirement to our Core Curriculum, and 4) A student/faculty congress must be implemented to give the students a more effective voice than the current student congress.

On that fateful evening in the airplane, I came up with a simpler plan than that. What we really need is to come together as a single entity and march on Buddy Cianci's office. Our leader will then lead several demonstrations designed to show Buddy our massive physical prowess as a student body, such as one-armed pushups or a game of full-contact Solitaire. Buddy would then, out of fear, feel obligated to meet our demands, which would be basic: take a few bulldozers down to T.F. Green Airport, and level the sucker.

As I know from my considerable flying experience, an airplane doth not a diverse environment make, and if there is no airport for the planes, cultural homogeneity would be reduced. And anybody who rides buses or trains can see that the real world is represented in a much truer light on land than in air. Only people that could get to Providence would attend P.C.

The relatively larger body of minority students would warrant some sort of non-western curriculum. Does the S.D.S. really think that they will be able to change the curriculum? I doubt the administration wants to listen to such a pushy student organization. As Charlie Manson once said, it's easier to catch a fly with honey than with an AK-47. But if the student body is truly diverse, the administration would have no choice but to submit. And one concession would lead to the next - before too long, the student opinion would practically dovetail with the administration's policy.

There would be no need to extend the MLK scholarship if we already had a good deal of minority students. People like me who hail from far away places would have to find some other place to hatch their evil plots, but like Spock said, sometimes the good of the many outweighs the good of the one.

Students of P.C. unite! Only we can make this happen. Our lives have been incomplete without the changes that the S.D.S. suggests, but their means to achieve them are too complicated. God only knows that science and math majors need to broaden their already advanced knowledge of world culture and philosophy. This is strictly a liberal arts school, and we need to start acting the part.

To the Editor,

Sometimes students feel the need to form new groups because the existing clubs do not attend to their needs or goals. Recently there seems to be great interest in forming new groups. As the Committee on Clubs and Organizations, we encourage these interests. The purpose of this letter is to inform all students interested in starting a club or organization of the steps they must follow. Official recognition is necessary if you wish to have the same privileges as existing clubs.

Student Congress is the organization that supervises, recognizes, and provides allocations for the majority of clubs and organizations on campus. There are many privileges granted to clubs and organizations as designated by the Student Handbook as well as the bylaws of the Student Congress. These include: reservation and use of rooms in Slavin Center, use of the Slavin Resource Room, Arrangement of publications/advertising material, approval of materials for the copy center, advertisement of events in College publications, funding, participation in the club fair. Though the process takes time, it is not difficult. A student representative must first contact the Clubs and Organizations Committee through Student Congress. The representative will then have to complete a petition with the signature of twenty students. After the petition process is completed, the interested students will work with the committee to draft a constitution. Upon review of the constitution, it is brought to Congress for debate and passage. The process is approximately one full academic year in length for recognition and one additional year in order to be eligible for allocations.

If the constitution is passed, certain responsibilities exist to maintain active status. The club or organization must participate in the Club Fair, attend Presidents' meetings held at the discretion of the chair of the Committee on Clubs and Organizations, fill out monthly financial and activity reports, as well as hold executive board elections and regularly scheduled meetings. The place and time of these meetings must be filed with the Student Congress. And, most importantly, membership must be open to all students.

The Committee on Clubs and Organizations serves as a resource for the established clubs and organizations as well as those going through the process of recognition. As the Committee on Clubs and Organizations, we recognize the need for various groups to exist on and off campus to voice the opinions of all members of the student body. We guide clubs and organizations to aid them in the achievement of their goals and objectives. We strongly urge all groups on campus to seek recognition in order to attain official status.

Committee on Clubs and
Organizations
49th Student Congress

Time for a Real Conversation

To the Editor,
Last week, the New Students for a Democratic Society sent the signatures of one thousand six hundred and sixty-five students to the office of Providence College President, Father Philip A. Smith, O.P. The signatures of the 1,665 students belonged to those who signed the "Petition for Student's Rights" and demanded the administration and trustees of Providence College immediately address the issues of lack of student involvement in administrative decisions and the diversification of our student body, faculty and curriculum. The signatures were presented along with a cover letter explaining that our organization wished to meet with President Smith within the next week to discuss the ratification of these demands. Not only has he failed to respond to your demands, he refused to meet with the N.S.D.S. at any point, for the reason that we, "are not an official club or organization." President Smith had a different idea on how to improve his understanding of student concerns. Some time ago, he called for a

start of the "conversation". We had asked if the "conversation" could be open to the rest of the student body if there were seats remaining at the start of it. The President denied our request, saying "other opportunities" would be offered for the rest of the student body to voice their concerns. If it was an attempt by President Smith to begin tearing down the barriers of communication, he sadly failed. Only ten of the three thousand eight hundred students enrolled at PC attended and participated in the "conversation" (that's less than 0.003% of the student body). 0.003%, no, that's not the percentage of minority students at our college, just the percentage of the student body that attended the "conversation".

Members of the N.S.D.S. were stranded outside in the rain and bitter cold, and denied an opportunity to voice their concerns. These are the same students who sacrificed their own time and effort to organize meetings, get petitions signed, produce, distribute, and post pamphlets, and arrange events. It's obvious that members of this

It's obvious that members of this organization are dedicated to the cause they have been working for and feel strongly about what needs to be done to change the college for the better.

"conversation" which was to take place between himself, forty "randomly" selected students, and other administrators. The event occurred this past Tuesday.

On this date (December 8), the NEW Students for a Democratic Society decided to respond to the President's silence with their own silence. A large group, consisting of around fifty students (most of whom are members of N.S.D.S.), gathered in a most peaceful and silent manner outside of Aquinas Hall to protest the closed forum. The intent of this "conversation", as President Smith likes to call it, was an attempt to improve communication between the Administration and students. No more than ten of the forty students, "randomly" selected by the President, attended this forum, thus there was plenty of empty seats (and a great deal of leftover food) at the gathering.

What bothers me personally is that two students (including myself), were able to converse with President Smith prior to the

organization are dedicated to the cause they have been working for and feel strongly about what needs to be done to change the college for the better. Is it not these students who have the greatest right to be heard? These are the same students who sacrificed their own time and effort to organize meetings, get petitions signed, produce, distribute, and post pamphlets, and arrange events. It's obvious that members of this organization are dedicated to the cause they have been working for and feel strongly about what needs to be done to change the college for the better. Is it not these students who have the greatest right to be heard? Members of the N.S.D.S. have been denied both the opportunity to attend this "conversation" and to meet with the President. I think it's time for a real "conversation" to take place, so the demands of one thousands six hundred and sixty-five students can be addressed.

John DeRonck '99
New Students for a Democratic Society

What Are We Really Afraid Of?

By COLLEEN E. PAPPAS '99
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I believe that fear is perhaps the most powerful of emotions that we as individuals possess. The fear of failure, for example, drives us to succeed. The fear of the unknown breeds a state of blissful ignorance. A great man once said that we have nothing to fear but fear itself; likewise we are taught that to conquer our fears, we must first face them. I believe this is one truth that haunts each of us when we are presented with unfamiliar situations, confrontations, and differences of opinion. What makes us stronger as individuals, then, would be to face our fears, to confront those situations with which we are uncomfortable. I have recently been witness to a situation in which it would seem that fear of opposition has denied several individuals the opportunity to speak their minds. This past Tuesday, December 8th, I was in attendance at the first installment of "Conversations with the President and Administration," an event designed to improve communication between the administration and campus constituents. Now, many of you will hear about the events that transpired on Tuesday afternoon, of the topics that were discussed, and of the general consensus of whether or not the event was a success. But I am not going to address those aspects of the event. What I am going to discuss are questions that have been raised, almost in silence, and have therefore gone unanswered. As an observer to the "Conversations" I, like the others in attendance, could not help but notice the approximately thirty-five to forty students standing silently in the rain outside the windows of Aquinas Lounge. These were students who were denied access to the "Conversations" (which, by the way, were attended by only eleven out of the forty "randomly chosen" students). Now there were many reasons given for why these students were not allowed the opportunity to take part in these discussions. Aside from the fact that they were not on the list of those invited (PC Security was present to check the ID's of those individuals

allowed inside the Lounge), they are also part of a group known as the New Students for a Democratic Society, which, according to the administrators present, is not an "officially recognized club or organization." I also heard references to propaganda, to phrases taken out of context, and to the importance of "proper channels." While these are nicely cut and dry phrases to throw around, they really don't answer the question: Why were those tuition paying students denied the opportunity to address the President and his fellow administrators with their concerns? Why, when there was a room full of empty chairs, were students who seemed to want nothing more than a chance to speak their minds, not invited in from the rain and given the opportunity to do so? Furthermore, why would a room full of administrators sit calmly in the warmth of Aquinas Lounge and ignore the students silently demonstrating outside? Why was it necessary to have security guards posted at doors of Aquinas Hall for the duration of the "Conversations"? Why would such things happen at a meeting designed to broaden the lines of communication between students and administration? Unfortunately, these questions are not answered by phrases such as "unofficial organization" and "proper channels." There is a point when such phrases seem almost ridiculous. They seemed so to this observer on Tuesday afternoon. I suppose what I am trying to say is that after a certain point, we all deserve to be heard. I do not believe it is right for chairs to sit empty when they can easily be filled by individuals who would like the chance to speak. I do not believe that a group whose members are clearly passionate for their cause needs to go through "proper channels" before it is allowed the respect that all individuals deserve. Nor do I believe that opposition should be feared, rather, it should be welcomed. We cannot know how strong our beliefs are until they are truly challenged in an open forum. Maybe the students who were standing outside Aquinas Lounge on Tuesday were not on the right list, maybe they claim allegiance to a group that is not recognized as an official club or

organization of the college, but does that make what they have to say any less important? Are we to believe that without proper recognition by the powers that be (in any community) one's own beliefs should be deemed unworthy to be heard? Opposition, challenges, dissent. These are the forces that often breed our fears. When we are scared of challenges, when we denounce the opposition, and when we crush dissent, we only build more fears on a foundation of ignorance. It takes more strength to welcome dissent than to ignore it. It is easy to hide behind the "proper channels" and condemn "senseless propaganda" than to admit there is more than one side to an issue. I imagine it is a great comfort to be surrounded only by those with whom we agree, as opposed to those who may challenge our views. I admit that I do not have the answers to all the questions I have raised in this article. I also must admit that it was the observation of Tuesday's "Conversations" which gave birth to these questions, but failed to answer them. Throughout my time at PC I have several times witnessed groups of students mobilizing themselves and trying to be heard by the administration. I have had the opportunity to see students at a generally apathetic school stand strongly behind what they believe to be right. But I have never seen a group of students standing in the rain in silent protest, ignored by the very administrators to whom they wish to speak. When obvious passion and dedication is blatantly ignored, what other way can an observer search for an answer except to assume that people must be afraid of opposition, afraid of dissent. I guess that my final question is "What is everyone so afraid of?" Why not let all voices be heard, how much harm is caused by challenging words? The opinions I have expressed here are merely my own as an observer to a particular event. I welcome responses to the questions that I have raised, I would like to know the answers. For any community that is afraid of the opinions and views of its own members, is a community that it afraid of itself.

-SDS-

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louder student voice and more racial diversity on campus among students and faculty. Part of that fight has included the posting of flyers with information on class racial statistics, governmental policy, campus policy, and statements from the President and Vice-President of Providence College. Following the example set by political candidates, the NSDS approached its campaign in such a way as to provoke response from students and administration. The best way to provoke response is through the creation

of controversy. Part of the process of "controversy creation" is to single out a scapegoat, an enemy, someone to blame. The two scapegoats in the fight for diversity became the President and Vice-President. I am not stating that these men are not responsible for their actions, perhaps they should be singled out but not in such a way that derides and defames, this is not loving my neighbor. The most recent flyer posted by the NSDS deliberately implies that Fr. Smith does not know what he's talking about and that he is in-

capable to be President. This is both slanderous and derisive and does not respect the personhood of him defamed. Therefore it is unacceptable.

Rather than using slander to provoke student involvement the NSDS should continue to educate students by publishing the facts about Affirmative Action and racial integration. They should try to educate themselves by studying the implications of a diversity requirement, I would recommend reading Illiberal Education by Dinesh DiSousa.

Floating Amidst The Stars...

The Experience of Spiritualized Live

By MICHELLE SMITH '01
A&E STAFF

Here we are, sadly, with my last article of the semester for the Cowl. What the heck am I going to write about? My first thought was to just not write one, being burdened with exams and papers and miscellaneous work that has been procrastinated until this week. But no, I thought, I must write one, and not only that, I want to. It's just that little thing called time, or lack of it, which is such a problem. My solution to getting things done—no sleep, Coca-Cola, Mountain Dew (a fine beverage this campus should seriously consider investing in), French vanilla cappuccino from Alumni and...Spiritualized. What? Yup, the only comfort I have received the past few weeks is the music of the powerful, beautiful space rockers, Spiritualized. They recently released a double live CD (something lots of bands seem to be doing these days), *Royal Albert Hall October 10 1997*, on Arista Records.

A quick bit of background info before I begin: From England, Spiritualized formed in early 1992, led by J Spacemen, formerly of the Spacemen 3. Before *Royal Albert Hall*, Spiritualized released four albums: *Lazer Guided Melodies* (1992), *F*cked up Inside* (no longer in print, by the way) (1993), *Pure Phase* (1995), and 1997's brilliant *Ladies and Gentlemen, We are Floating in Space*. I recently received an e-mail claim-

But this construed whopper of a lie portrays the feelings evoked listening to *Royal Albert Hall*. I saw Spiritualized last April, and I then learned that one has not truly experienced the music of Spiritualized until they have witnessed the phenomena of their live performance. *Royal Albert Hall* captures the live experience to its fullest, with the band playing flawlessly against the backdrop of a gospel choir and full scale orchestra. The result is an epic performance; trippy space-pop music, intense noise guitar, quiet, reverberating piano and the softly wailing voice of J Spaceman. It is a masterpiece of unsurpassable quality.

The majority of the songs are from *Ladies and Gentlemen...*, although there are a couple from their earlier releases, most notably "Shine A Light," from *F*cked Up Inside*, as well as three Spacemen 3 songs, including "Walking with Jesus." Songs like "Shine A Light" and "Broken Heart" hit you in the stomach. They are songs so tear wrenchingly beautiful, it is enough to make you stop breathing. They transport you to another level. A feeling of choked up happiness overwhelms you, and for five minutes, you are truly floating in space. The "live" feel is captured so wonderfully and so perfectly, it is hauntingly scary.

From ethereal tunes like these, they jump into songs like

you will understand the meaning behind the name, "Spiritualized," for after listening, a

pervade your being.

Spiritualized is now working on a follow up album, to be re-

the North Pole under the lights, a show to cap off their series of shows playing on the highest

places on Earth. Other places they have played on this tour include the CN Tower in Toronto, Canada and the World Trade Cen-

ter. So be prepared to hear a great deal more from this band, OK? OK.

"Each song leads perfectly into the other, building up and letting down, increasing tension, relieving it, breathing, swimming underwater- hold your breath, let loose, cry, wail, laugh out loud, be happy..."

whole new feeling of... enlightenment and renewal tends to

leased in mid-1999. They are also working on plans to play

These Guys Don't Take Requests



By DAVID LIFRIERI '99
A&E STAFF

"You can run but you can't hide from the west side."
-Ice Cube, "Predator"

It's funny, but this also applies to the Providence music scene. The west side of Providence is home to an incestuous group of musicians, centered around Fort Thunder Outpost and Load records. The groups play together, record each other, and create artwork for each other's album covers and concert posters. There are similarities running through all the bands. For instance, all the bands produce music that seems to be covered in grime (this is good). However, each incarnation from the family of Load takes its own spin on the hard, noisy repetition, that oozes from the abandoned factories of the West Side.

That ooze was collected and displayed at The Living Room last Saturday. The line up was -White Dwarf (noise via bass) -The Olneyville Sound System -Arab on Radar (treble attack under white lights) and SixFinger Satellite (the Grandfathers of the scene). The Olneyville Sound System took me by total surprise. I had seen them before a while ago when they opened for Melt Banana

(Japanese noise core) at Fort Thunder, but their subtle brand of cowboy fuzz and wine did not hit me until their re-emergence last Saturday.

A brief history:

Shortly after the two shows opening for Melt Banana and Les Savy Fav (Brooklyn), Olneyville Sound System broke up. The bass player, Dan St. Jacques (ex The Hydrogen Terrors) decided to light himself on fire. This was known as Landed. Landed was a force of mutation (like the burned skin cells of St. Jacques' back) whose members varied from show to show but never failed to bite your leg. Landed had one release on Load, and as disturbing the cover art may be it does not even hint at the perversity of the human condition seen at their live shows. But, be that as it may, on Saturday Dan St. Jacques picked up a bass again and laid down some super fuzz for us to soak up.

Along with St. Jacques, Adam Autry did drums and Jon (Von) Ryan did vocals. The show featured keyboards where the album has Roma Karas blowing harp. O.S.S performed from their 1996-97 album *Because we're all in this together* as well as some new ones. I very much enjoyed the true story "Downtown all alone, Downtown with no phone." At first the simplicity of the screeches from Jon Von Ryan (little brother of Genocide Jerry, 6FS) made me wish he had his brother's fine Providence College English degree (Viva la Forrest Gander!) But after the

first minute of assault by the grinding low end, I was put into a punch drunk state. The one-liner lyrics now contained the lucid brilliance of the Zen Haiku. The instrumentation complimented Ryan and subtly played off his half mentioned screams. It created a stage, but Ryan didn't stand on it. He kind of shifted around its edge, wandering in the pit. Without the blues harp of Roma Karas, Ryan was all alone meandering around the mid-range of fuzz tones and tinkling keyboard. His vocals are similar to big brother's, but Jon escapes Jeremiah's shadow in his delivery. His screams are not "in" the guitar tone, because there isn't one; and they are not above it because it is physically impossible to overshadow the rhythmic force of the fuzzed out bass and the bass drum/mobile home of Autry.

The music is not interested in new forms. Instead, it desires to make the existing ones as raw and stripped as possible. On the album the presence of the harp gives the band a distinct Black Sabbath "Wizard"-on-speed feel. The tunes have a dirty bar room propulsion which does not give up. The harp plays basically the same riff over and over again, but it is great. This is most notable on "Olney at the top" and "These guys don't take requests, they don't play showtunes". It is an assault of something always existing in rock music but always below the surface. Olneyville Sound System brings it to the surface in a painful operation.

Without the harp (the live show) the blues influence on St. Jacques bass falls to the random keyboard dissonances. It is all held together by the simple poundings of Autry. Another convention is stripped. The rock mutations are even further divorced from their beings but the spirit continues. Both incarnations get across the same idea, which is best said in the band's own words: "TO SERVE TO STRIVE AND NOT TO YIELD"



Wow, I gullibly thought (hey Dave, is "gullibly" a word? Yeah, yeah, Michelle, it is), what an insane, incredible feeling that must have been. This, of course, was all a lie, merely propaganda to shamelessly promote the album.

laugh out loud, be happy. You travel on the spirals of swirled emotion, a psychedelic-type trip throughout the universe. After hearing this album, you will not only have the strongest desire to see them live for yourself, but

Tart, Tasty and Fun: Friars Cell's One Acts Prove To Be a Worthwhile Weekend Treat

By JESSICA TABAK
ASST. A&E EDITOR

This is Jessica Tabak, One-Acts correspondent extraordinaire, here to give all of you slackers who missed the shows this weekend the low-down on what went on. If you read my report last week, then you are at least aware that this event took place. Hell, you may have even figured it out on your own. If not, what can I say? You missed a fun show.

I cannot tell a lie. When I went to the One Acts last Friday December 4th, I was a bit apprehensive. After all of the hullabaloo surrounding the Friar's Cell production this year, I feared that the confusion would take its toll upon the quality of the two remaining shows, A.R. Gurney's "The Problem" and Dorothy Parker's "Here We Are." As I sat down in my center stage seat, I was all too aware that the moment



Ryan Brown '02 and Anne Marie Rupert '99 star in *The Problem*, directed by Matt Duchnowski '01.



Jacqueline Bradford '99 and Jim Kalagher '01 star in *Here We Are*, directed by Allison Healy '99.

of truth had arrived.

But I of little faith had nothing to worry about. The students involved in Friar's Cell put on a short but satisfying performance that managed to exceed the expectations of this weary reviewer. Both plays were encapsulated studies of married couples. Sort of. The similarities ended there.

The night opened with "The Problem," which was directed by Matt Duchnowski ('01). The play was a funny and shocking romp through one couple's very

politically incorrect sexual role-playing game. For those of you waiting for a catch, it is that the audience does not know that the characters are acting themselves until the last moments of the play. This added an extra level of difficulty to the performances of Anne Marie Rupert ('99) and Ryan Brown ('02). Not only did they have to act well, but they had to act like they were acting. This had to be done obviously enough that the play's ending would make sense, but subtly enough that the audience would

still be surprised by the ending. Both actors did were adept at achieving this balance.

They also did well with milking the humor out of the less obviously tickling moments. When things were funny, the players (actors, director and crew included) made them funnier. A perfect example of this occurred during one of Brown's monologues. In the monologue, Brown is "confessing" how for the past five years he has been donning an African-American disguise while

making love to his wife. As the monologue began, The Great Pretender began emanating from the theater's speakers. It was a nice touch, and it gave me an extra laugh.

Director Allison Healy ('99) also managed to reap lots of laughs out of "Here We Are." A witty, very tongue-in-cheek depiction of a just married couple on the train to their honeymoon, the play was snappy, tart and smooth-think wild cherry

Lifesavers dissolving on your tongue. Actors Jim Kalagher ('01) and Jacqueline Bradford ('99) aptly captured the love/hate cycle of miscommunications between the sexes. And for the record, I thought that Jacqueline's hat was just lovely.

There it is, faithful readers—there in a nutshell. The One Acts. If you missed them, see them next year. If you saw them, then you know why I was impressed. Until next time, this is Jessica Tabak saying good night from Cowl correspondent land.

A Very Bad Movie

By ALICIA MOSKWA '99
A&E STAFF

The producers of *Very Bad Things* are marketing their movie as a black comedy. The previews, boasting an exceptional ensemble of comic actors (including big names Christian Slater and Cameron Diaz), are pretty funny. I have some bad news though. The funny parts

shown in the previews are all of the funny parts. What is left can best be described by one little word: SICK.

Now, I can definitely stomach a category, bloody movies—particularly

those with suspense and an engaging story. Rack up another few points for violent movies with terrific casts. In such cases, I can usually overlook violence. Not so in *Very Bad Things*. Although the plot of the film is initially promising, writer/director Peter Berg loses more and more of the positive aspects of the movie with each

murder.

And trust me, there are more than a few murders. First of all, there is the prostitute. In the interest of entertaining soon-to-be-hitched Kyle (Jon Favreau of *Swingers*), his friends (Slater and company) decided that a bachelor party extraordinaire is in order. So they take off for a hotel in Vegas where they consume enough alcohol and cocaine to make even the audience feel quite dazed. The camera

truding metal towel hook. Michael, upon finally realizing she is dead *leaves the body hanging there* while he panics until it falls onto the floor.

This is just the beginning. Slater's character, remaining eerily calm, convinces the rest of the boys that their only option is to bury the body out in the desert and forget about the entire incident. Unfortunately, things do not turn out to be so simple. Within the next min-

increasing number of dead people are the mental breakdowns of the main characters, who find it rather difficult to keep their situation a secret. The talent of each of these cast members is definitely evident in their interpretations of their psychological deteriorations.

The pleasant surprise of the movie is Cameron Diaz, whom I never considered an especially good actress before this film. Diaz is excellent as pos-

Things that are not so good. Critics have been pointing out the misogynistic and racist elements of the film. The prostitute who is so violently treated and then killed is Asian; the second victim is African-American.

The end of the movie does not, in any way, satisfy the audience's need for closure or relief, or even humor. In fact, it is so abrupt and just plain weird that when the credits started rolling, my friends and I looked at

each other blankly and said, "Huh?" It almost seemed like a cop-out on the part of the filmmakers who could not find an appropriate way to wrap things up. I

"I tried to convince my male friends that the moral of the story was to not hire strippers. They didn't believe me."

shots are dizzying, the music is blurry, and there is a lot of dancing on couches.

Enter the stripper who is persuaded to have sex with Michael (Jeremy Piven of *Grosse Pointe Blank*) in the bathroom. Inadvertently, the stripper's head is slammed against the bathroom wall, which happens to include a pro-

utes, they have another dead body on their hands and bathroom absolutely covered with blood. With the help of a saw, mop and some suitcases, they manage to solve that problem... for the next ten minutes, at least.

The movie continues in this fashion right until the very end. The only things that remotely distract our attention from the

sibly the most insane of the bunch. She is the bride-to-be who will resort to *anything* to get married on time. Seeing the girl who played the sickeningly perfect Mary in *Something About Mary* beat someone over the head was almost worth my money.

Unfortunately, there are other aspects of *Very Bad*

tried to convince my male friends that the moral of the story was not to hire strippers. They did not believe me. And, despite several impressive performances, *Very Bad Things* leaves the audience unsatisfied and probably nauseous. Even the valiant efforts of a remarkable cast cannot clean up this bloody mess of a movie.

INTRODUCING...

PC's Special Guests

By VENESSA ANDERSON '99
A&E Editor

Music is an important part of life on campus. These past two weeks both students and faculty from the music department have illustrated their musical dedication by their numerous performances. Taking a look at these performances, one cannot help but notice how much music has grown on this campus in the

ness manager of the group, comments that the group has really taken off. "We've gone from a five-member group that no one knew, to half the people I know saying, 'oh, when are you going to perform again?,' or faculty and staff asking (about us), and BOP asking us to do a coffee house by ourselves next semester. We have grown so much that we almost have an established a capella club, which will be the first of its kind on this campus." Saulnier adds that Special Guest has even been able to visit other college campuses like Brandeis last year and Skidmore this semester. "We

We've changed our techniques from trying to find music specially arranged for a capella singing to picking parts out of popular songs," he says. Ramsey continues, "We tend to shy away from the more technical aspect of music to more crowd pleasing songs. One of our biggest hits is 'Poison,' by Bel Biv DeVoe." Saulnier adds, "We figure that if the audience is screaming and clapping they won't be able to hear us screw up." Some of Special Guest's more popular songs are, "Going the Distance," (Cake), "Breakfast at Tiffany's" (Deep Blue Something) and "What Would you Say" (Dave Matthews).

This past semester has been particularly busy for the group. They have had almost ten performances. That is more than the group performed the last two years combined. Next semester looks even busier for the 12 members. "We're looking to enter a few regional competitions," comments Ramsey.

Saulnier mentions that there is an A capella

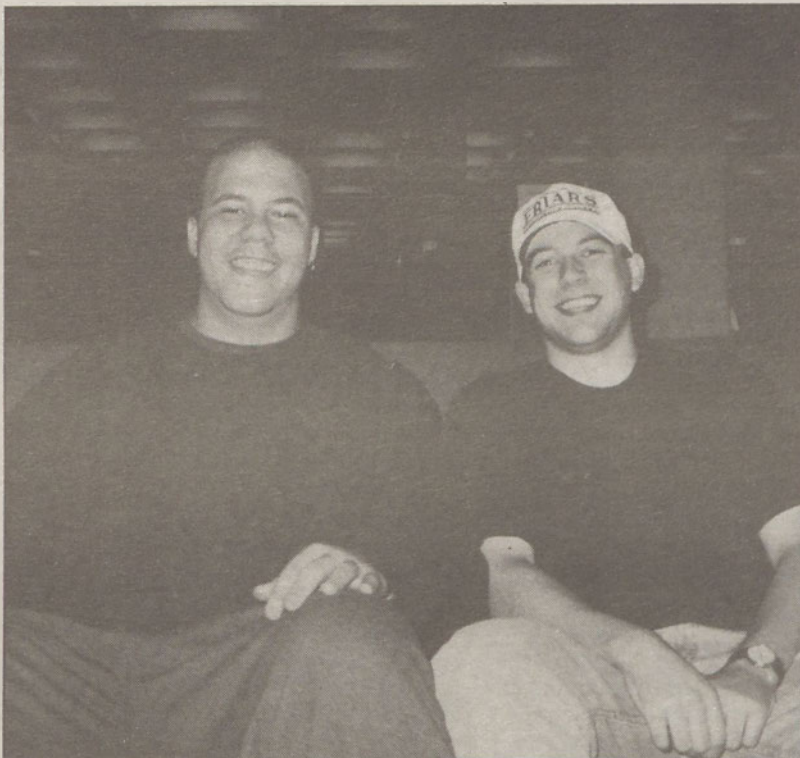


photo by Rachel Watt '99

Doug Ramsey '01, Business Manager, and Chris Saulnier '99, Music Director, have helped promote Special Guest's popularity.



The original members of Special Guest as they were two years ago.

past few years. Special Guest, PC's a capella group, is a perfect example of this.

The music director of the group, Chris Saulnier '99, explains that Special Guest originated when a determined Aaron Wade '98 approached him, Alex Tobin '98, and John Sayward two years ago. It took the quartet the entire first semester to learn their first song, "When I'm Sixty-four," which they performed at a Student Recital for the Music Department. "We got a good response from that recital, and we decided to keep going," says Saulnier. The group expanded from the original five members (Brian Cannel '99 joined the group second semester). "Last year we decided to enlarge the group to twelve men," Saulnier remarks, "so we held auditions."

Doug Ramsey '01, the busi-



The twelve current members of Special Guest performing in Slavin Pit.

also made a trip up to Boston earlier this year," he adds.

Saulnier thinks that Special Guest has become so successful because it is something that the college has not seen before. "We are a fun group to watch.

Fest in the works. "Last year we had six groups come, most of them from Brown. We're trying to expand

from that and invite colleges from all over the North East."

In the meantime, Special Guest continues to expand its repertoire. It will be making an appearance in Washington D.C. on the choral tour. Their very successful semester has left the men with high hopes for next

semester.

To check out Special Guest for yourself, take a look at their website, www.angelfire.com/ri/SpecialGuest. And keep your ears open for a Tuesday performance at the study breaks.

The A&E staff would like to wish all of our friends and family a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season.

And just a quick correction from last week: Great Big Sea, Guster's opening band at their Hartford, CT show, November 28, 1998, is from Newfoundland, Canada - not Norway.

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Coughing Up Jewel:

A Shopping Guide for the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

By VENESSA ANDERSON '99
A&E EDITOR

It has come to my attention that Christmas is just around the corner. A good friend of mine said the other day, "You know what Venessa? Christmas is less than three weeks away." He said, "It's funny how Christmas always falls twenty days after the 5th of December every single year."

Well, how 'bout that.

With this in mind, I proceed. Seeing as most people like to buy gifts for the important people in their lives around this time, I would like to help you. No, I do not mean picking you up in my Mazda and chauffeuring you all around North Attleboro. Instead, I would like to offer some suggestions in the realm of new albums.

Among the plethora of marketing promotions, two albums have found their way in front of my nose these past few months. They are: Soul Coughing's

El Oso and Jewel's *Spirit*. Unfortunately, I have not had the opportunity to write about them earlier, but I would like to take this time to offer you some of my opinions.

Before I begin my reviews, I must warn you. I will not be presenting all of this information completely unbiasedly. I

admit that I am very opinionated when it comes to Soul Coughing. It is the combination of grindingly interesting vocals by M. Doughty, peculiarly original beats by Yuval Gabay and the inclusion of the upright bass (my most favorite instrument ever) that makes me go cuckoo for Soul Coughing. So if I seem a little prejudiced, oh well. I'm a critic. That is not to say that Jewel does not interest me. I mean, after her performance here at PC two years ago, how could I ignore her? (hmm.)

Soul Coughing: "This record is huge. It's my favorite," comments M. Doughty about the

new *El Oso* (Warner Bros). Realizing that everyone says that about their current work, he adds, "I'm not lying. On *El Oso*, we have really grown as a band."

Well, let us review some of their history. Soul Coughing emerged from the New York underground music world in 1992. Doughty actually gave up on the music industry when Soul Coughing was formed. He says, "I didn't care anymore and I just wanted to book some Monday night shows and have some fun."

Somehow, this mentality seemed to work for the funky quartet. Their first album *Ruby Vroom* was released in 1994 and sold more than 150,000. The second album, *Irresistible Bliss*, sold 250,000 copies largely due

to Antoni (keyboard), Sebastian Steinberg (upright bass) and Yuval Gabay (drums and percussion) in addition to M. Doughty on vocals and guitar to really develop their tunes. One thing that really works very well on this album are the different types of percussion instruments. "Tchad had a zillion keyboards, whistles, bells, toys, weird speakers and guitars, and we went crazy with the overdubs," says Doughty. This encouraged the band to produce a strong record. "I don't think we hit stride with song production until this record," says De Gli Antoni.

But to get to the music... Jungle beats dominate. Gabay comments, "When I come up with beats I always try to imagine how people would dance to it. And with jungle, people are bending their knees but their heads are also bobbing up and down. So these days, I am trying to get people to bob their heads as well as shake their booty." "Rolling" is a perfect example of this beat.

Rather simple but humorous and truthful lyrics characterize the album.

Doughty's lyrical expertise, which draws a great deal on a Tribe Called Quest and the beat poets, is peak. Most of you probably have heard the single, "Circles." It is most likely a little more tame than the rest of the album, but you can still get a sense of what they are about.

Jewel: Spirit (Atlantic) is

Jewel's recently released follow up album to her debut, *Pieces of You*. "This album represents the movement toward spirit in my life and in the world," she says. "My first album is a time capsule of where I was at nineteen. After per-

songwriter's faith in each individual's ability to make a difference, as well as the need for spirit to enrich our lives. "Barcelona" chronicles Jewel's own struggle toward self-love, while "Kiss the Flames" and "In-

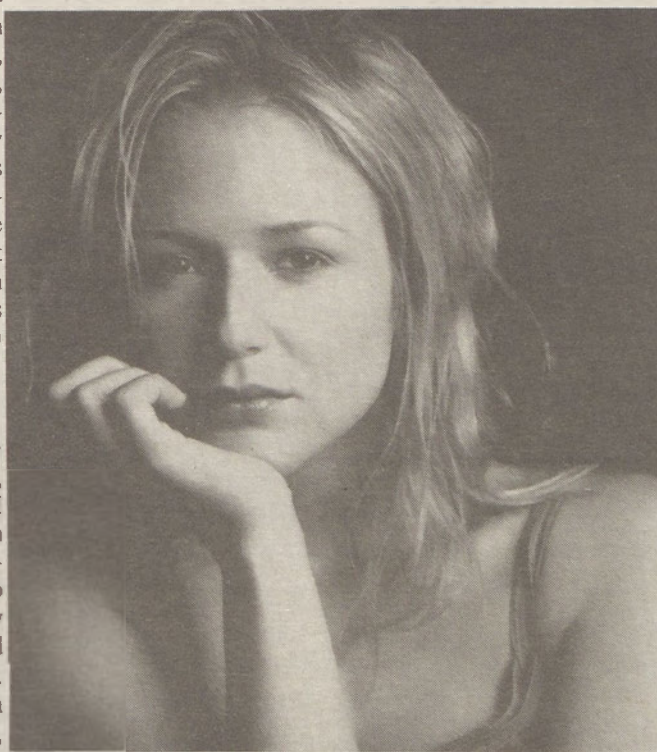
nocence Maintained" reflect the songwriter's belief in our intrinsic need to come together.

Generally all of the songs are rather mellow, acoustic, and soulful. Jewel keeps her characteristic almost ethereal voice. To my dismay, there are not any really up-beat, "Who Will Save Your Soul"-type songs on this album.

"Do You," and "Down so Long" almost come close to being fun songs to listen to. But in general, Jewel decides to keep this album toned down, which can get a little boring. I mean, how much more mellow can Jewel really get?

Well, I hope I helped your shopping just a little bit. Who would have guessed that you could shop while you read!

As an endnote, this is my last opportunity to say "Happy Holidays!" I hope everyone has a wonderful, productive, and safe vacation. Remember to keep some cookies out for Old St. Nick. On a personal note, I would like to say thank you to my friends, family and Peter, who have stood by me during this very crazy semester. You the best. Elephant Juice.



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Though presumably not possessed by the devil, she can rotate her head a full 360 degrees and has an inhuman chest to waist measurement ratio of 4-to-1. For 10 points, name this icon whose friends include Skipper and Ken.

Look here for the answer next week!

Last week's answer:
Florence Italy

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A Touch of Fiction

Where I Want You

"She was so beautiful," he wallowed out loud into the bottom of his glass wondering if he could squander another swallow.

Lori D. McCreven '99
Features Staff

"She's not dead," I said. "She just broke up with you."

"But..."

"No buts. It's for the best," I told him.

"But..."

"What did I say?"

"Sorry." He tipped the glass towards his mouth, tasting the last imaginary sip.

Catching the eye of the bartender, I pointed to Jeremy; he gave me a questioning look as if to tell me that he had had enough.

"I got him," I told the bartender. "Give me a Coke."

That should appease him for a while. Then there was Jeremy. Wallowing.

He didn't thank me for the drink — just drank half of it the second he got his hands on it.

"We were going to get married," he said to the air, knowing that I did not want to hear it.

"Only in your mind."

"She knew," he promised

me, even though he had told me before that he could never find the right time to bring up the topic.

"Whatever. Just deal with it."

I got up, hoping that he would get the hint that I wanted to leave. He didn't. He picked up the glass again and drank the other half. I went to the bathroom to get away for a bit. I was sure that he would not go anywhere. In fact, he probably did not even realize that I was gone.

I stared at myself in the small mirror in the bathroom, knowing that he would never see me as beautiful. Only her. Looking at the reflection, I realized that he never would, even if he could, give me a chance. I fluffed my hair a little, put some more lipstick on, and smiled at the reflection. It was his loss. But, I knew that it wasn't. The best friend never wins.

"Where did you go?" he slurred slightly.

"The bathroom."

"I thought you left me."

"Do you honestly think I would have left you like this?" I asked him.

"No," he said with a faint smile that for that moment let be believe that I was appreci-

ated.

"Let's go," I said and took his hand, partly because he needed the support but mostly because I wanted to.

I gave a wave to the bartender as we left, and he gave me a sympathetic smile.

"Jeremy," I called. "That's not my car."

"Yes it is," he said while trying to open the door of a blue car that was obviously locked.

"Do I ever lock my doors?"

"No," he said.

"What color is my car?"

"White."

"Then, do you think that that is my car?" I asked, feeling as though I was teaching my students instead of an adult.

He shook his head sadly, not wanting to admit his wrong.

"Now, come on," I said, taking his hand.

"We were perfect together," he started again.

"No you weren't. You fought all the time," I said while turning up the radio, hoping that he might stop talking about her.

"You don't know that," he said.

I wanted to tell him that I did know; he told me more than I ever wanted to know. And I told

him nothing. I listened as a good friend would, all the time wanting what I could not have. I hated her: blond hair, blue eyes, long legs, everything. Now I hated her even more for hurting him like this. He did not deserve this. Yet, he wanted to be hurt like this. Love.

"So, where do you want to go?" I asked him.

"Home."

"She's there," I reminded him, reminiscent of how I warned him not to move in with her.

He did not answer. He forgot about that.

"Well?"

"I don't know," he said. "I'm thinking."

"Listen, just come to my place."

Even in the dark I could see the bewilderment in his face.

"You can crash on my couch until you two work this out." They always did.

He said nothing more, so I assumed that it was okay. I wanted to think that this would make her jealous, but I knew that it would not. She had long since gotten over being jealous of our relationship. of me. She had control of him; she knew that I was not a threat. Hell, I

knew that I was not a threat.

"It's over," he said in a voice that reminded me of a six year old that had been told it was bedtime.

"You two will get back together," I told him, believing it.

We rode the rest of the way in silence, but we were probably thinking similar thoughts. He wanted to get her back; I wanted him.

I helped him, more or less dragged him, into my apartment. He sort of fell onto the couch, and I was content to leave him there. With the blanket in hand, I smiled imagining how much he was going to hate himself in the morning.

"Shana?" I heard him mumble.

"Yeah?"

"Thanks," he mumbled with his eyes closing involuntarily.

"Your welcome," I said and turned towards my room.

"Shana?"

"Yes, Jeremy?"

"Good night."

In those words I heard, "I love you." That is all that I needed to hear. That is all that I wanted to hear. That's how I remember it; that's how I will always remember it.

PC Debate Team Shines

Which PC team faces extraordinary competition, preys on their opponents weaknesses, spends weekends on the road, and knows the exaltation of victory and the embarrassment of defeat? Basketball? Think again— it's PC debate!

Laura Rodini '01
Features Staff

"The debate team was here before the basketball or baseball team," laughs Karen Witiw '00, President of PC's most intellectually strenuous sport. On this team, members wear power suits as their uniform and place more importance on brains than brawn. This season the PC debate team has enjoyed considerable success. In particular, at the Brown University tournament November 20-21, in which 58 colleges from the U.S. and Canada competed, PC's top ranked team of Paul Kessimian '01 and Kevin Santilli '01 placed third novice team and 12th in overall competition, the highest ever for a PC team. Kessimian also ranked 1st novice speaker.

Similar debate tournaments are held almost every week at

colleges across New England, with Harvard, Williams, Princeton and Smith among the hosts. Tournaments consist of five rounds of competition, starting Friday afternoon and concluding, after a party and a few hours of sleep, Saturday morning. Each round lasts well over an hour, and this time is filled by, well... a lot of hot air. Debaters must learn the art of b.s.— stretching their ideas to fill the time requirements, which, for opening and closing remarks, are a lengthy 8 minutes. The debates are Parliamentary-style, where the speakers speak extemporaneously, without any prior research, on a variety of subjects. "You have your dry topics," Kessimian says, referring to a recent debate on whether Congress should rescind a Presidential Executive order, "But me and Kevin try to throw in topics to break the mold." At the Brown University tournament, they persuaded judges why King Menelaus should have rescued Helen during the Trojan War, and why donkeys are the most useful animal. They used their most polished case, favoring the legalization of prostitution, to defeat Harvard's top-ranked team.

People from all sides of the political spectrum debate, yet all share a common purpose: to prove they're right, and you're wrong. "I've met a lot of nice people but also a lot of arrogant 3 piece suit wearing Ivy Leaguers," Kessimian says. The most important item to take into a debate, Kessimian says, is confidence. "At debate tournaments people think they're the best think since sliced bread. So YOU have to be the best thing since sliced bread to beat them."

Kessimian has not always felt this way. His first debate was in seventh grade American History class, "I wrote my whole speech out, and I was trembling. I lost." But he was hooked, joining his high school debate team (and remaining undefeated throughout his four years) and now the PC team.

The rest of the year looks promising for the debate team. "The team is doing awesome and we're really excited," says Witiw. Next semester they will host a tournament at PC, as well as participate in Harvard's Model United Nations in February.

Poetry Corner

Hourglass

grain by grain
they are sacrificed
in a pagan way
they drop in the darkness
before the last day
and seeing me hysteric
she silently slips away
torn inside
dreading the day
and mourning the night

but it burns hot in the day
and freezes cold in the night
and the stars won't shine
when wind whistles
through the prairie
and though it doesn't rain
the lightning still strikes
in red and blue flashes
with a buzz in thick air
and everything crashes
tonight
as I find my sad way
through the ashes
even wolves won't howl
fearing Satan himself
on wings in the night

then the light goes out
and all I see
is a shadow of an hourglass
staring straight through me
and I beg for sleep
to fight the pain
try to escape
in vain

Jeremy Bolt '00
Features Staff

Who Will I Be Kissing At Midnight?

So, I'm sitting here, watching "Buffy the Vampire Slayer." Not exactly mind-provoking television, but I don't require a whole lot to be entertained. Besides, my other option is making origami cranes (or at least attempting to) with my roommate. Oh, the excitement the end of the semester brings.

Heather Robin Rose '99
Features Staff

It's hard to believe it's the end of the semester, isn't it? I have an unusual problem in that I don't have a whole lot to do. I don't know how I managed that. I only have two actual finals and the rest of my stuff is pretty much done. I realize that I shouldn't be complaining about my lack of work. Most people would be pretty happy to be in my situation, but the thing is that I am super bored! All of my friends have things to do, which is why I am watching "Buffy" alone. No one wants to play with me!

Even though I don't really have work and studying to stress about, I am stressed nonetheless. Like, for instance, New

Year's Eve is approaching. I realize that classes are still in session, my Christmas shopping is far from done and I still have no clue what I'll be doing after graduation, but for some reason the fact that I have no idea what I'll be doing for New Year's is what I'm stressing about the most.

I've never been especially fond of New Year's Eve. There are always such high expectations and I usually end up having an evening that can be classified as significantly less than awesome, to say the least. Like, for instance, the year I fell through a screen door and got stuck at this kid's house with a million people I didn't like because the roads were too icy for any of us to drive home. Or the year I shared the floor with two rather large lizards and rang in the New Year with two happy couples. Yes, two happy couples and me (even the lizards had each other!). Or last year, which should probably be left unmentioned for fear of humiliating myself to the entire student body.

And on top of finding some-

thing fun to do, there's always the desperate attempt to find someone to kiss when the ball drops. Now, there's a fun activity. It ranks right up there with cleaning the toilet (which, sadly enough, I have done more recently than I've done any kissing - and I'm really not sure why I just shared that). Who decided that the best way to ring in the new year is to share a kiss with someone? I think it's a pretty silly idea. Now, if I had someone to kiss, I probably wouldn't be so opposed to the idea, but right now it's not looking too hopeful.

On that cheerful note, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish a very special happy birthday to my roommate Jackie Bailey, who turns 21 (finally!) on December 11th. She may very well be the youngest person in the senior class. So if you see Jackie while you're out celebrating the end of classes, be sure to say happy birthday, although she will hopefully be in no state to remember!

Happy Holidays! See you all in 1999!

Writer's Block

Writer's block. It is what I get sometimes, usually when I'm stressed to produce creative genius by due dates or deadlines. Hold on to your seat because this little blurb is a product of it.

Colleen Lee '00
Features Staff

I think writer's block is a lot more common than people are willing to admit. It is a phenomenon that is not reserved for the poets and the literary giants that we place high above us on steady pedestals.

Think about it. How often are those nights you stay up until 5am or later to finish a paper? You are not up late because you waited until midnight to start it, and you are probably not up late because you are an unrelenting proof-reader (because for most, once it is done, it is done). You did not sleep because you totaled your eyes staring at a blank screen all night (or should I say morning?).

The unfortunate existence of writer's block is fueled by our inability to think for ourselves. And even if we do have incredible ideas or revelations (which I would argue is more often than not), we are afraid to voice them. All our lives we have been told what to do, what to say, what to write. And we have been told that this is the only way. Twenty years of conditioning will leave a lasting impression. All the negative and offensive changes and lack of changes that have taken place on this campus this se-

mester alone and how tight-lipped we, as students, have remained about them prove that we have learned our lesson well.

The other day one of my professors asked the class what might be a good question for an in-class essay. Everyone sat there and looked pained. It was embarrassing. How often do professors allow you to create an exam? I am sure there were great suggestions out there just waiting to be put forth, but we were too timid to let them out.

I went home and thought about what a good essay might be and a wonderful idea popped into my head. The question should read: write. Could you imagine the response the class would have? How dare that professor? What can we possibly write? And the granddaddy of them all, how is the professor going to grade them? Do not be shocked. Do not be embarrassed. These are the questions that we have been trained to ask.

I challenge everyone to reconsider these questions, but above all, to challenge your education. You and only you have the ability to monitor what you learn and what you do not learn. Experiment, be daring, do not be afraid of being different from the rest. It is your work. Put your own ideas into it. Do not settle to write what you have been spoon-fed all these years. Once you conquer the true block in writing, writer's block will never be an issue.

I think it is time we overstep the obstacles and have the courage not to look back. Unlearn the lesson that we had no say in learning.

Christmas Is Cool



Right now I'm trapped in a red and green nightmare. Long gone are the days of orange, and I am lost without them. The seasons' greetings and the merry tidings are slowly increasing with each passing day, and "Jingle Bells" has already staked its claim over my answering machine. I'm losing my mind to Frosty, and the She-Beast that occupied my October 31st has vanished. Yet, I am not strong enough to revolt against all this garland-laced joy; I'm too weak to take a stance against most everything. Anyway... (It's been a bad day.) I have already made my sacrifice to the gods of The Christmas Tree Shop, in fact I paid more than I ever expected to and we still couldn't find any mistletoe, but that's as irrelevant as this whole article. So I'm a sucker who will ultimately pull a Scrooge, and admit that I like Christmas. While I'm at it, I wouldn't mind a little peace on Earth, too. But, man, I could really use a boo.

Jill Yablonski '00
Features Staff

I'm all about tradition and decorating the Christmas tree, but for some reason I just don't get that excited. Honestly, it all stems from the gifts. Who do you buy for who don't you? When will a card suffice, and what should you write? For a girl who likes to consider herself a writer, I'm a big fan of postcards- limited space. I'm a perfectionist with, at times, unreasonably high self-inflicted standards; it follows that shopping would be torturous to me. I try to find that ideal gift, that I know the receiver will love and that will express how much I care, or don't, but I rarely do. It's just all too stressful. I'd prefer to toss a stranger in disguise a Snickers, then stand face to face with a disappointed friend feigning a smile and an ecstatic hug. I can't beat myself up for passing out the wrong candy, unless it's Good and Plenty; somebody needs to stop me, in the most affective manner possible, if I ever think that's a good treat.

Now, this is the part I warned you about. Here it comes, the inevitable give-in... I do get some joy out of the whole Christmas gift buying experience. There are times when I somehow manage to pick up the right thing. If I can make my friend happy, not so much with the material item, but with the idea that I was thinking of her, the person I know and adore, then I become happy, too. It's not that easy to open up, (yeah I can be blunt, but this is different) and show somehow how I feel about them and who they are to me. It may be a social norm that makes me purchase presents, but there's truth hidden under that glossy ubiquitous shell. I try to match gifts with tastes, so my perception of you is the basis of my journey. I want to surprise you with something unique, not what you asked for. I want you to know that I tried.

There are defiantly times when I deserve the grinch title, but at least it's for all the right reasons. If it is possible to justify your disappointment in what appears to be America's, okay 101's, favorite holiday. Although, I can only assume that's part of it, too. I'll finally get to take a, meek, stance against something conventional. That'll be my gift to me; and I can assure you we'll both be pleased.

Features would like to wish everyone at Providence College and all of our faithful readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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THE ADVICE CORNER: Friendly Friar

Dear Friendly Friar,

I have a problem which is kind of embarrassing and I don't know who to turn to for help. There's this guy who I really like and I've had a crush on him for a while. He's really attractive, intelligent and he's always on my mind. I look forward to seeing him and it brightens my day when I do. I know that a lot of people probably experience this and that normally it's not a big deal. But there's one major difference: my crush is also my professor. I know that it would be inappropriate to pursue a relationship - and he certainly hasn't given me any indication that he views our relationship as anything more than student-teacher. Yet I hold onto this impossible hope that we could be together and it's overrunning everything in my life. I'm not even interested in any of the boys in my own class because they don't compare to him. Help! What do I do?

D.S.F.

Dear D.S.F.,

It is painfully obvious that you failed to mention the marital status of this professor of yours. It is a fact that whether or not he is married makes a huge difference in an already touchy situation. In other words, if he is attached, it is a big, fat "No Way!!!" for you, girlfriend.

Now, that said, let's get down to your dilemma. The fact of the matter is that he is your supervisor and this hopelessly "Dawson's Creek"-esque situation can get out of hand if you don't simmer down on the lust factor. You said that he hasn't given you any indication that he has mutual feelings. This could be for a number of reasons:

1. He could lose his job.
2. He actually doesn't see the two of you as having anything more than a "student-teacher" relationship.
3. He could lose his job (*Yeah, this one's pretty important I'd say).

Unfortunately, it seems as though you've fallen pretty hard for this professor person. You've already begun to shut yourself off to the possibilities of dating within your peer group. Trust me, this is a very bad thing. Now, I'm not saying that you can only date guys that are within one year of your own age. To a certain extent, age really doesn't matter. For example, I had been dating someone at home who was 6 years older than I am. He certainly isn't in college anymore but we do have a lot in common. But even in that situation, we decided to put things on hold because I'm in school and he has a career. We are in two different places in our lives right now. You and your professor are in two different places in your lives. In addition, your professor, by virtue of his profession, is in a situation that makes it impossible to begin a relationship with a student without compromising the integrity of his position. According to almost every college and university, it is unethical for a professor to date a student. This, my friend, is a fact. This leaves you with only one thing to do. You have to realize that this relationship will not (and should not) become a reality. Do yourself a favor and, come next semester, look within the student body for a crush (I know the pickins are slim, but it's a start). Also, you will be able to distance yourself from your teacher after the semester's end. That is, of course, provided that you haven't signed up for another class with him. In which case, do some serious contemplation on the subject over break. But when you get back, please, please heed my advice. I'm just lookin' out for your well-being. I promise you, it's for the best.

Head up young person,
Friendly Friar

P.S. - I hope everyone has a happy, healthy and mentally stable Christmas break. Have a great time, relax, de-stress. Don't worry, there'll be plenty to write to me about once second semester starts up again.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Cayte

Later On, We'll Conspire

The semester is nearly over. That's why I'm sharp enough to think of a cool, Christmas lyric title but too dull-witted to actually link to the article. Pointless introductory sentence aside, join me in a personal look at Christmas as it was, is, and will be.

Jodie L. Zdrok '99
Features Staff

The holiday itself remains unchanged, but our perspectives of it sway. Every year something about the celebration changes, and before long fifteen years have passed and the differences suddenly seem great. To make my abstractions more concrete, I need some help from three of my buddies: the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future.

The Ghost of Christmas Past brings back those golden days of yore - my childhood. Back then, anticipation for Christmas began right after Thanksgiving. Receiving gifts was more important than giving them. (Cut me some slack, I was a kid. It was a phase). By the time Christmas Eve and the special Polish "Welia" dinner came, my excitement was barely confinable. After dinner (of which I ate little), I would make a mad dash my mother's fudge and cookies. Within a few hours, nearly every relative I had came to our annual open house. One year, a little gray and white stray

kitty joined us for the festivities. Spending time with family was so wonderful that I declined my parents' offers to invite my friends. My energy supply was vast but not enough to carry me through Midnight Mass, which was a sleepwalking exercise if I managed to attend. A mere six hours later, at the first hint of Christmas day sunlight, I leapt out of bed. I checked out the gifts Santa left for me and quickly woke up the rest of the family - let the unwrapping begin! I'm happy to say that my childhood memories of Christmas are nothing short of precious.

The Ghost of Christmas Present takes a little liberty in his job. He (or is it she?) insists that I include a few recent Christmases in discussing the present. Now, the holiday sneaks up on me. Eager anticipation is delayed until after finals, just a couple days prior to the holiday. I am more concerned with giving gifts than receiving (I told you my former selfishness was only a phase). "Welia" is less meaningful without my beloved Polish grandmother. After dinner (of which I still eat little), I still make a mad dash for the goodies. My extended family isn't as close as it once was, fewer relatives visit, and now I invite all my friends. That stray kitty is now a fourteen year old cat who calls my bedspread home. Staying up for Midnight Mass

is a cinch - I usually play cards until the last minute before leaving. Christmas morning finds me stumbling, not leaping, out of bed. I no longer believe in Santa, but maybe that's because I'm in denial about having been placed on the "naughty" list.

The Ghost of Christmas Future is prodding me. He isn't showing me anything, and I sense uncertainty and a fa-got about it attitude. I cannot imagine Christmas Eve anywhere but my house, yet I know that time will take me elsewhere. Most of my extended family will have drifted further apart. Years from now, I will have created new Christmas traditions. Maybe I will even regain my spot on the "nice" list.

Somewhere around here there's a Tiny Tim saying "God bless us, everyone." To those of you who spend Christmas in the fullness of family life, know that you are blessed. To those of you whose families are somehow torn apart, recall the best of times and smile upon the holidays in a new way. To those of you who have lost loved ones, feel their presence in spirit and hold you memories close. We at Providence College may seem "the same", but we're not. We each carry with us profound differences in the heart, mind, and soul. Merry Christmas, PC, in whatever way you spend it.

WELL DONE!

Many thanks to all the students, faculty and friends of Providence University who helped make Daewoo's recruitment effort a huge success.

We have met our quota of Daewoo Campus Advisors and December 15th is our final recruitment date.

Once again, thank you all for making it possible.

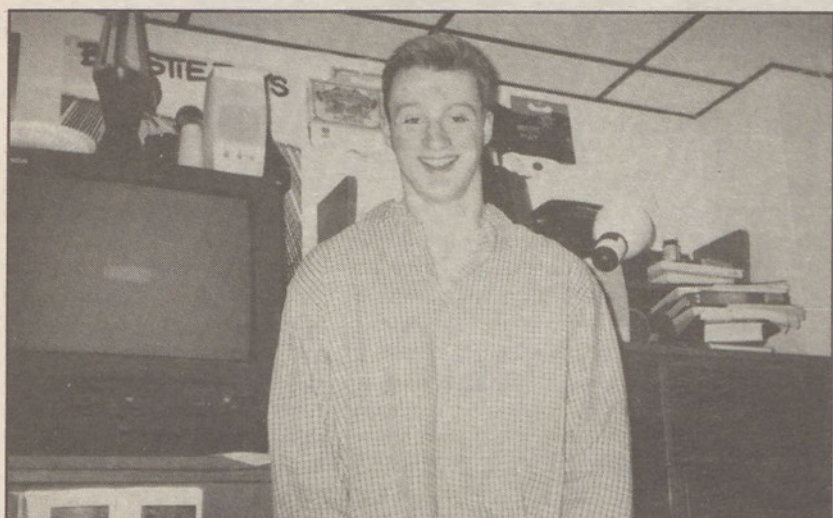


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JANUARY & SPRINGBREAK

If You Were On the Island of Misfit Toys, What Would You Be ?



Jim McMackin, '00
"A Fisher Price Tool Box"



Tiffany Greene, '02
"Juggling a gaggle of balls!"



Erin Cavanaugh, '01 and Jenny Evangelista '01
"A set of jacks with no balls."



Mike McLean, '01
"A Balzack Brat"



Merg "Peg" Driscoll, '99 and Jeanne-Marie Casey, '99
"We'd be Monopoly with no money."



Shannon Crowe, '99 and Jen Murray, '99
"A polka-dotted zebra."



Joanie and Chachie: We'd be a U-Shaped Hula Hoop! Happy Holidays!

Thank You Seniors!!

The following seniors have returned their pledge cards for the 1999 Senior Class Giving Program. On behalf of those students who will benefit from your generosity, thank you!

James Albert
Matt Altenburger
Chris Anastasia
Gloria Anglon
Guerin Anglim
Joseph Arcata
Vanessa Avila
Gregory Barbeau
Lauren Barnes
Kimberly Barros
Rosemary Bchara
Michael Beatty
Emily Benfer
Christy Bennett
Meghan Bernabe
Greg Bernhard
Charity Betancourt
Brian Bielawiec
Dan Blanchard
David Blanchard
Danielle Boudreau
Todd Brabazon
Dina Bracigliano
Kristen Bradley
Alison Brënnan
Cliff Bridge
Monica Broadhead
Erin Broglie
Bobby Brown
Alison Burke
Andrew Burke
Virginia Burre
Marco Camacho
Daniel Cameron
Brian Canell
Gina Carmadello
Rebecca Carr
Jennifer Carroll
Ryan Casey
Annie Cattlin
Carl Cicchetti
Maura Cignetti
Michael Claffey
William Clifford, Jr.
Sonya Coelho
Stephanie Cohen
Beth Commito
Richard Cordella
Claudia Corey
Renee Cormier
Timothy Coutu
Jennifer Couzens
Jason Cromack

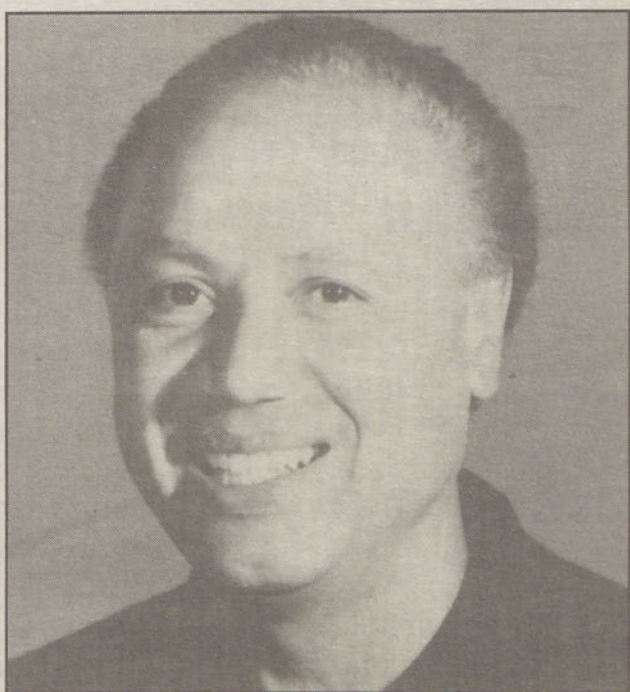
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Lauren Deneault
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Danielle Deschenes
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Richard Dichard
Laura DiPietro
Heather Doherty
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Colleen Donovan
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Joshua Driscoll
Margaret Driscoll
Keelan Dwyer
Debra Estrella
David Exter
Stacy Fabrizio
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Paula Ferreira
Stephen Fitzmaurice
Colleen Flynn
Julie Forsher
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Meghan Hearn
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Kathryn Hogan
Rachel Homer
Jennifer Howley
Teresa Hoy
Kerry Hughes
Patricia Hughes
Jane Hurley

Thomas Hyland
Amy Israelian
Judy Jablecki
Kerri James
Lauren Janosy
Meredith Johnson
John Judge
Jennifer Kalman
Christine Kayola
Melissa Kennedy
Brian Kenney
Kevin Kosiorek
Laura Kryzanek
Marissa Lachapelle
Michelle Lackner
Meredith LaCorte
Jeannine Lalonde
Christopher Lambton
Vernon Lawrence, Jr.
Michael Leary
Julie Lee
Stacey Lee
William Leeman
Tara Lenhart
Patricia Leonard
Lindsay-Mae
Levesque
Amy Lewis
Michael Liard
Sarah Lightbown
JoAnna LoSapio
Jennifer Lucas
Perrin Lucash
Paula Luzzi
Katherine Lyons
Gregory Macomber
Marybeth Maggiore
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Kimberly Marcoccio
Christopher Marcoux
Elizabeth Marino
Ellen Mastrostefano
Kelly McCrodden
Sean McCue
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Sean McHugh
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Kathleen McLaughlin
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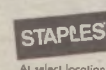


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Isn't it Ironical?

By Joe Valenzano

Define irony: One of the best women's hockey coaches in the nation leaving a school that just promised to increase funding to women's sports. Well, ladies and gentlemen, Providence College is ironic.

Earlier this week, Jackie Barto, a member of the PC Hall of Fame and coach of the Women's Hockey team for the last 12 1/2 seasons, resigned her post here at PC to take a similar one at Ohio State. The Buckeyes have just finished completion on a new on campus arena, the Value City Arena, and are going to start a women's hockey program.

It may seem odd that the coach of a perennial top five team is leaving her school to start from the ground up, but if you examine her reasons a little closer you begin to fathom why she is abandoning ship.

She stated that she has little or no faith in the athletic department after they announced the dreaded Title IX decision back in October. This is understandable, for if you dig a little deeper you will find that the athletic department never stated that women's hockey would not be cut; they were on the bubble. They also are not a Big East team, which prompted early speculation that the school would cut the program instead of other ones that compete in the Big East. I would be scared as well, even after the decision, for who knows what the school will do if it ever manages to get more men than women in the student population?

The funny thing about all of this, and it is really more sad than funny, is that Fr. Smith stated in his letter to the students that he felt the decision would lead to the overall strengthening of the athletic programs here at Providence. Wrong.

Since the decision has been made, players and students have thought about transferring; recruiting has been hurt in all sports; and the latest casualty is someone in a position we are supposed to be strengthening. Yep, we're getting more powerful by the minute.

The decision to cut baseball, tennis, and golf has come back to bite the school more times than a rabid pit bull loose in a crowd. It would be impossible for them to think that they could have actually made a bad decision, and would reconsider. They are too proud to admit they were in the wrong, or that their plan will not eventually lead to success. The question that Ms. Barto brought to the fore with her impromptu exit from the PC athletic department is simple: Who is next? Will it be hockey? Soccer? Swimming? Which one of the 'minor' sports will the administration deem expendable next time they need to reevaluate their gender equity gap?

Make no mistake, they will cut sports again. This school loves to hide behind the rhetoric of "we are tuition driven" and "our alumni simply don't donate enough," when the issue

for more funding arrives. What will happen if and when the ratio changes from more women to more men? Will they spend more to keep programs such as women's ice hockey while increasing the men's sports on campus? No, they will cut it and redistribute the money to men's sports. They will never add a dime more to athletics than what is already there.

I can think of no more appropriate way to end the semester than by having one of our best women's sports coaches resign. A semester that began with cutting men for the sake of women, has a woman leaving for the sake of those men.

That may sound a little melodramatic, but in the end it is true. Would Ms. Barto have left our PC family had the administration not cut those men's sports back in October? Who knows, but it obviously played a large role in her decision.

Ms. Barto, I congratulate you. You made the correct move at the correct time. Who knows whether in three or four years, if you stayed, that you would be asking yourself the same questions and dealing with the same problems that the baseball, men's tennis, and golf teams are coping with now?

Administration, take heed: this is just the beginning of the fallout you have incurred upon yourselves and this institution.

Joe Valenzano '00 is a Cowl Sports writer.

Barto Resigns; Headed to Ohio State

-Hockey-

Continued From Page 32

Despite a strong performance from backup goalie Brigid Keady and a goal from sophomore Corinne Rosen, the Friars were still unable to stop a solid performance from Brown.

Sara DeCosta, most well known for her Olympic performance, was out of the country once again. DeCosta is currently playing in the Three Nations' Tournament in Finland and will be back for the second half of the season. "We played real hard, but tonight Brown was the better team," says Coach Barto, coaching in her last game at PC. During my interview with the coach, she carried a bouquet of flowers given to her by her players, and had a hint of tears in her eyes. "They had a little edge over us on the ice."

In the last couple games it's been Providence who has had the edge. First, they edged Yale 5-3 on Dec. 5, and followed that up with a victory against Princeton 3-0 on the next day. Even with the Brown loss, the Friars are on a roll.

The players, although informed of the possibility a week ago, were hit somewhat hard with the news, and had to take the ice just hours later. With the departure official, one must wonder if Barto's departure affected the team on Wednesday night.

"It's a very emotional time for the whole team right now," says sophomore goalie Heather Wilcox. "I'd like to think that it didn't affect us, but something tells me it was in the back of our minds out there."

Barto will be missed greatly. In five and a half years, she

posted a career record of 70-53-10 and won the ECAC title in 1995. On top of that, she was very successful as the head coach of the field hockey program, and was a star in three Providence sports (field hockey, ice hockey, softball) when she attended school here in the mid-eighties.

Barto, although under contract by the school for the whole year, was let go immediately after her decision. It is assumed that the administration wanted a fresh coaching staff to move in as soon as possible.

On Dec. 8, President Smith explained the situation at a conference referred to as "Discussion with the President and the Administration." The meeting was held at the Aquinas lounge and was addressed to the student body.

"She was under contract, but we did not want to keep her here if her heart wasn't into it," says Smith. "She is a wonderful woman."

In the business of college sports, coaches are often known to leave programs behind if a better opportunity comes up—it's part of the business. The trick is to leave the program in good standings. When Pete Carroll left the Friar basketball team before the 1998 season, some questioned the move. For Barto there is no bitterness at all amongst her players. Maybe some emptiness, though.

"We wish (Barto and Cunningham) the best of luck. We'd love it if they'd stay, but it's too good of an opportunity," says Wilcox. "We're not too sure what's going to happen in the next couple weeks, but I'm sure we can pull through."

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NFL Season Enters Fourth Quarter

By Ben Nadeau

A crazy NFL season is about to get crazier. Already we have stories like the Broncos riding an undefeated season, the Vikings on pace to set a new record for most points in a season, and Terrell Davis only slightly behind the record pace for most rushing yards in a season. In the past three weeks, referees have come under fire for a plethora of bad and gamebreaking calls. But for the final three weeks of the regular season, an entire division should garner quite a bit of media attention: the AFC East.

Arguably the most competitive division, if the season were to end today, four of the five AFC East teams would make the playoffs. The New York Jets, Miami Dolphins, Buffalo Bills, and New England Patriots are all fighting for playoff berths, and with only one game separating the four teams, all are still in the running for the AFC East title.

The Jets seem to be the favorite to win the division at this point, but if you look at each team's schedule, nothing is a given yet. No team has an easy ride the rest of the way, and there will be a crucial AFC East matchup every week until the end of the season, with the Jets traveling to Miami and Buffalo before coming home to play New England to finish the season.

Miami, though tied with the Jets in first place at 9-4, figure to be the most likely of the four to miss the playoffs. In the next three weeks, the Dolphins have to play three division leaders: the 9-4 Jets, the 13-0 Broncos, and the 11-2 Falcons. It is very likely that Miami could lose all three, finishing at 9-7 (4-4 in the division), and miss the playoffs.

Buffalo, the victims of a bad call versus the Patriots two weeks ago, rebounded with a solid win over the Bengals last week. But they play three teams that, as of now, are still in the playoff hunt: the 7-6 Raiders, the Jets, and the 6-7 Saints. The Raiders are reeling after losing QB Jeff George for the season, and it doesn't seem likely that back-up Donald Hallas can lead them to the playoffs following a loss to the lowly Redskins, who intercepted the QB six times and recorded eight sacks. The Saints, though below .500, are still in the running for a wild card spot in the depth-less NFC.

New England is riding high once again after winning three straight from the Dolphins, Bills, and Steelers. However, they have only one "gimme" the rest of the way, and that's this week against the 3-10 Rams. After that, they host the 49ers and then travel to the Meadowlands for a game against the Jets that very well may be for the division title. Drew Bledsoe, playing with a doubly fractured index finger in his throwing hand, has quieted critics who have questioned his toughness and harped on him about not being able to win the big game, by engineering two last minute drive victories and performing well enough to defeat the Steelers. The Pats defense took a couple of major

hits last week, though. Ted Johnson, the "heart and soul" of the defense, according to head coach Pete Carroll, was lost for the season when he tore his bicep while tackling Pittsburgh RB Jerome Bettis. DE Willie McGinest was also hurt, straining his groin for the third time this season, and may also be gone for the season.

So much will be answered Sunday night when the Dolphins and Jets duke it out. If Miami can win, I say that all four teams will make the playoffs. If they lose, Miami's done. The likelihood of a Miami team defeating either the Broncos or the Falcons is extremely slim. Their defense is the only thing going for them.

Buffalo is scary. All season long I've underestimated them, but it's time to take them for real. They have one of the easiest remaining schedules (tied with the Pats with the opposing team's record at 22-17), but they need to run the table, which means that they have to beat the Jets in two weeks. Doug Flutie wins ball games. He shouldn't, but he does, and the Flutie factor will lead them to the playoffs, and possibly a division title. New England is on a roll. Three straight wins, and their offense seems to be improving since the return of WR Terry Glenn. WR/KR/PR Troy Brown also will see more action this week after returning from a sprained ankle last week. Just like last season, the Pats seem to be finishing strong following a midseason slump.

And now, my predictions. For this week's games, the Jets will beat Miami, the Bills will beat Oakland, and the Pats will win in St. Louis. Next week pits some big games, and I think some upsets. The Bills will beat the Jets, and the Pats will edge the 49ers, but there's no way the Dolphins are going to beat the Broncos. If this happens, there's a four-way log jam for first place in the division at 10-5. In the last week, the Dolphins finish their season with a loss to Jamal Anderson and the Falcons. The Bills will defeat the Saints.

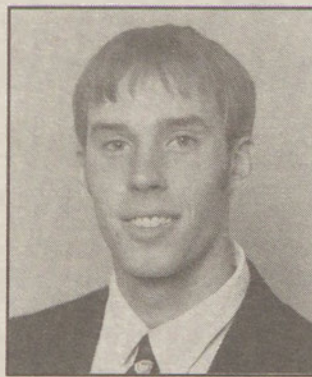
If the Pats beat the Jets, the Bills, Jets, and Pats will all finish the season at 11-5. Each will have split the season series against the others. Each would have a 5-3 division record. And each would have a 8-4 record against AFC opponents. That means that we have to go to the best record in common games to break the tie. Buffalo beats the Jets as a result of their win over the 49ers, the Pats beat the Rams and the 49ers, and then the Pats would beat the Bills as a result of their win over the Rams, thus taking the division title. As a matter of fact, even if the Jets do win, they still wouldn't win the division. The Bills would take it by means of their better record in common games. No matter what, this is a race that is guaranteed to be interesting, even up to the last week. But if I'm right in my predictions, I'm going to have a lot of fun with my friends who are Jets fans. You know who you are. Go Patriots!

PC Athletes of the Week



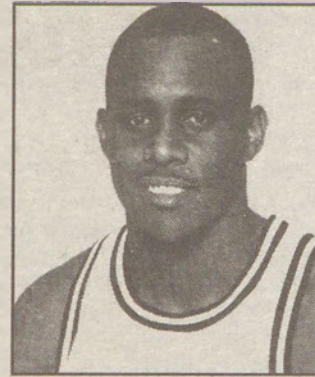
Carla Clemente '99
Loudonville, NY
Swimming

Carla helped the Lady Friar swim team to a second finish at the URI Invitational last weekend. Clemente won the 100 and 200 backstroke and finished second in the 50 free.



Jed Michnowicz '99
Santa Clara, CA
Swimming

Jed shattered the school record in the 1,000 free at the URI Invitational last weekend. Jed broke the record set in 1992 and now owns EVERY individual freestyle record at PC.



Jamel Thomas '99
Brooklyn, NY
Basketball

Jamel was named the BIG EAST Player of the Week for a pair of double-doubles in wins over Maine and Brown. Thomas leads the BIG EAST in scoring with 25.4 points per game.

Baseball Team, Supporters Meet with PC Administration Concerning Future of Lame Duck Program

The decision regarding Title IX that was announced on October 6, 1998 reared its ugly head once again. This past Saturday morning in '64 Hall, the Friends Of Friar Baseball, an organization of alumni and students who desire the reinstatement of the athletic programs that were discontinued (specifically baseball), met with the President of the college, Fr. Phillip Smith.

The group, led by many former Friar baseball players, sought to gain information as to the specifics of the decision. They peppered Fr. Smith with questions pertaining to whose final decision it was to make, who advised the school to take the proportionality form of compliance, and many other things. Most of these questions were directly asked by an alumni who is a member of the family that donated Bedford Hall to the Providence campus, Jim Bedford.

The administration was represented by Fr. Smith, athletic director John Marinatto, and General Counsel Mary Francis McGinn. They stated that the college sought the expensive advice of a law firm in Boston on which compliance form to take with Title IX. Father Smith said that they were the ones who told the school the safest harbor was that of proportionality.

Frank Palmieri, father of former PC second baseman Scott Palmieri, also made a speech about the decision, in which he decried the lack of compassion and communication in the school as it pertained to the decision.

One of the major points that was raised by the Friends Of Friars Baseball was the school's membership in the Big East. Those present expressed concern over the sacrifice of three very successful programs for the sake of maintaining membership in the Big East and

Hockey East. They countered the school's reasoning of competitiveness for all programs that were retained by saying that the school eliminated three successful programs for the sake of keeping the other programs in the Big East, when if all were moved to a conference such as the America East, all programs would be successful.

Father Smith concluded the session at approximately 11 a.m. by inviting the alumni to

devise a plan that is different from the one that the school implemented. He guaranteed that he would give all the necessary information to the Friends Of Friar Baseball to accomplish this task, and that he would look at their proposal. He did not, however, guarantee that the proposal that they devise would replace the school's current plan.

-Joe Valenzano '00



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Men's Hockey Faces Off Against Dartmouth on Friday

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE (7-7) at DARTMOUTH COLLEGE (3-4) December 11, 1998 at Thompson Arena (Hanover, N.H.) — 7:30 p.m. THE PROVIDENCE-DARTMOUTH SERIES... Friday's game will be the 21st meeting between the two schools. Providence College leads the all-times series 13-7. The two teams first met on March 5, 1953 with Dartmouth defeating Providence, 6-2, at Davis Rink. PC's last win against the Big Green was a 5-2 victory at Schneider Arena on Jan. 21, 1997. The Friars' last loss to Dartmouth was a 4-1 defeat in the championship game at the Sheraton/US Airways Classic in Burlington, Vt. on Dec. 28, 1997. **AT THOMPSON ARENA...** PC holds a 4-2 record against the Big Green at Thompson Arena. PC won the first meeting between the two schools at the Thompson Arena, 4-3, on

Feb. 8, 1977. The Friars' last win at Thompson Arena was a 8-4 decision on Jan. 4, 1983. The last time Dartmouth defeated PC at Thompson Arena was Dec. 30, 1994 (4-2). **LAST SEASON AGAINST DARTMOUTH...** In the only meeting between the two teams last season, Dartmouth defeated the Friars, 4-1, in the championship game of the Sheraton/US Airways Classic in Burlington, Vt. on Dec. 28, 1997. J.J. Picinic tallied the lone goal for the Friars. Goaltender Boyd Ballard made 18 saves in the loss. **FRIARS VS. NON CONFERENCE OPPONENTS...** PC has posted a 3-3 mark against non-conference opponents this season. The Friars are 1-1 versus CCHA teams, 1-1 against WCHA squads and 1-1 versus ECAC foes. **FRIARS SPLIT WITH MERRIMACK...** The Providence College Friars posted a 1-1 mark on Dec. 3-4 against

Merrimack. On Dec. 3, PC was defeated by Merrimack, 3-2, at the Volpe Complex. Junior Jerry Keefe and senior Mike Omicioli each scored for PC. Senior Mark Kane made 34 saves in the loss. On Dec. 4, PC earned a 3-2 win against the Warriors in overtime at Schneider Arena. Omicioli tallied the game-winning goal for the Friars at 1:09 of the overtime period. Sophomore Matt Libby and junior Fernando Pisani also scored for PC. Kane recorded 28 saves in the win. **KEEFE NOTCHES FIVE POINTS VS. WARRIORS...** Junior center Jerry Keefe recorded five points (one goal, four assists) in PC's two games against Merrimack on Dec. 3-4. On Dec. 3, Keefe scored one goal and added one assist in PC's 3-2 loss to Merrimack at the Volpe Complex. The following night, he assisted on all three Friar goals, including the game winner in overtime as PC earned a 3-2 victory against the

Warriors. His three points against Merrimack on Dec. 4 marked the 16th multiple-point game of his career and his 10th this season. Keefe has tallied three or more points in four games this season, including two five-point games. On Nov. 27, Keefe recorded five points (two goals, three assists) in PC's 6-5 loss to Princeton at Schneider Arena. On Oct. 30-31, Keefe tallied eight points (three goals, five assists) in PC's two HOCKEY EAST wins against Boston University and earned HOCKEY EAST Player of the Week and U.S. College Hockey Online Offensive Player of the Week honors. On Oct. 31, he led the Friar offense with his first career hat trick, scored the game-winning goal and added two assists in the Friars' 6-4 win against the Terriers at Walter Brown Arena. One of the leading scorers in the nation, Keefe leads the Friars in points (28) and assists (19).

Women's Hoops Falls to 1-5

The Friars fell to the Lady Bears of Southwest Missouri State 74-55 before 302 fans in Alumni Hall on Saturday afternoon in Providence.

At the half, the Lady Bears took a 29-23 advantage, even though their leading scorer guard Jackie Stiles, who was averaging 33.8 points per game, was held to no points in the first 20 minutes. The Friars wouldn't get any closer as the Bears turned it up a notch in the second half and took command of the lead.

The Friars were led by freshman Chrissy Vozab (Amenia, NY) who tallied 14 points (5-11 fg, 2-3, 3 pointers) and dished out four assists. Sophomore center Monika Roberts (Antioch, CA) earned her first career double double with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

SMS was led by Roshonda Reed with 24 points. Stiles finished the game with nine points - her lowest total of the season.

Providence falls to 1-5 overall.

-PC Sports Information

PC Drops Close One to Notre Dame, 83-80; Faces Rutgers Friday

-Basketball-

Continued From Page 32

left-hander, who could both take it strong to the rim or finesse in delicate baby hooks.

"Murphy is pretty special. I don't know of many guys in our league as good as him. He's not a freshman," said Welsh.

Senior guard Cory Wright spearheaded the last-ditch effort that almost stole the victory from the Irish. Wright poured in six points in the last 17 seconds, including a three-pointer that made it 81-79 with 15 seconds to play.

To no one's surprise, however, Murphy answered the challenge. He went 4-4 from the charity stripe over the last 15 seconds to seal the win.

Increased defensive pressure and adjusting to Notre

Dame's 2-3 zone got the Friars back in a position to win late in the second half. The pressure created turnovers and gave PC some hoops in transition, eliminating their reliance on perimeter shots. Welsh also moved Sean Connolly to the top of the key on offense against the zone.

The Irish had been overplaying the wings, where the freshman sharpshooter usually puts in his points. Connolly had 12 of his 21 points in the second half.

Welsh said his team's lack of offense affected their ability to play tough defense. Above and beyond Murphy, other Notre Dame players were able to take the Friars off the dribble — something that has happened rarely this year.

"Our lack of offense created

our lack of defense. We got back on our heels mentally. You lose a little heart if you go a long period of time without scoring," Welsh said.

Freshmen David Graves and Harold Swanagan put in 17 and 12 points, respectively, for Notre Dame. Like their star classmate Murphy, both patrolled under the hoop and gave the shorter Friars trouble.

Notre Dame point guard Jim Dillon played what coach John MacLeod called his best game of the year, tallying 7 points and 7 assists.

Connolly and Jamel Thomas led the way for PC with 21 points apiece. Connolly was 6-13 from behind the three point arc.

Thomas was 8-18 from the floor and had an uncharacteris-

tic six turnovers.

Welsh pointed out that the Notre Dame defense focused on Thomas, who is currently leading both the Big East and the nation in scoring.

"They shaded to him. Others are going to have to make plays, too," he said.

Wright wound up with 9 points and 7 assists. Jamaal Camah also had nine.

The Friars' last game before Christmas is on the road against Big East foe Rutgers this Friday.

FRIAR NOTES: PC drubbed Brown 81-60 on Saturday as Thomas lit it up for 30 points and 10 boards. Thomas garnered Big East Player of the Week honors for his performances against Brown and Maine (25 points/11

rebounds)...Connolly added a career high 18 points against Brown...PC should receive a welcome boost in the second semester. Los Angeles Valley Community College transfer Leon Brisport, a 6'-9" center, will be eligible to play. Graduate student Kendrick Moore, who was averaging nearly 10 points a game before going down with a stress fracture in mid-November, should also be back....Thomas moved into eighth place on the Friars all-time scoring list against ND, overtaking Austin Croshere and John Thompson.

For PC Athletic Tickets: Call 865-GOPC

Where Have All the Fans Gone?

-Valenzano-

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went for studying, not knowing the coaches were going to be there. Why is it that such a lack of interest was shown? Well, there are several answers.

First, the publicity for the event was minimal at best. Not many students, including myself, were aware that the event was taking place. Without knowledge of its existence, how can one be expected to show up? So, in the future, there should be better advertising for something like this. Perhaps an announcement at the games so that the ten to fifteen students who come to all of the games would at least go.

Despite the strength of that explanation, it does not cover the whole reason. At least not for me. I think part of the prob-

lem is the fact that ordinary students and members of the teams should make a better attempt at letting the student body know who they are. Seriously, when was the last time you spoke with a player, or had a class with one of them? Now this is a bad generalization, I know, as there are players who are very outgoing towards the students, but they are the gross minority. Why should a student come out and support a team which has players who never support their fellow students?

The blame for this does not lie totally on the athletes. Some lies on the students themselves. Members of the PC community walk around and whisper about the players when they walk by, or are afraid to say a word to one to them. Well, people, they are students too, just like you.

Open your mouths and say "Hello" or "What's Up?" They are people, members of the student body, not professionals.

Unfortunately, the blame is still not all accounted for. Yet more falls on the coaching staffs of the respective sports. When was the last time you have seen a member of the men's coaching staff somewhere other than outside Moore Hall? When was the last time they have attempted to voluntarily mingle with the student body or faculty? The answer is probably never.

If the administration wishes to say that they made an attempt at that coffeehouse, well, that is not acceptable. That is a program, not a meeting by chance. This does not just refer to the present coaching staff, but the previous Pete Gillen regime

which was also reclusive. Come out! Meet your constituents! We don't bite. We won't ridicule. We just want to feel like we are part of the program that our school sponsors. Telling us to show up in an interview is much different than taking a stroll across campus and meeting students to tell them in person.

After saying all of this, I think I am inclined to agree with Mr. Reynolds to a degree. It is not the marketing events alone that cause the lackadaisical attitude among the PC students. It is not the fact that it is easier to watch on television, though it is less expensive but not as exciting. It is also not the athletes' fault.

It is a matter of all of the factors together. Students, remember that they are people and can

be approached. Coaches, remember that a walk around campus to meet some students is not a bad idea; you are part of this community whether you like it or not. Marketing, remember that you are not the reason people go to games or meet coaches, you are a just part of the glitz and glamour that college basketball has become. The administration, you especially should remember that we are part of this school, and we are the reason there is a PC, so maybe you should start to treat us like the men and women we are and not the children you believe us to be. Everyone is part of the success or failure of the teams here at PC, through the amount of support we show.

But in the end, all of us should remember that it is just a game.



SPORTS

Where are the Fans?

In Sunday's edition of the *Providence Journal Bulletin*, columnist Bill Reynolds discussed the lack of support and atmosphere at the Providence

Off the Bench

By
Joe Valenzano

Civic Center for men's basketball games. He has a point, especially when it comes to the students here at PC. So, before I offer a possible explanation for this apathetic attitude, let me give some examples.

PC has had six home games this semester, and not one has had the student section filled to capacity, not even in the game versus the largest rivalry at the school, Rhode Island. On Tuesday the team opened up its Big East schedule against the University of Notre Dame, and not even that event sold out. This is either truly pathetic, or evidence of a far greater problem here at PC.

Mr. Reynolds had several thoughts on this matter, ranging from the carnival atmosphere to the lack of interest shown in the students. As far as the first is concerned, basketball games are more marketing and promotional tools now than the sporting events which they formerly were.

For the world of sports this is a sad but unavoidable turn of events. College basketball is one of the most watched sports, and also one of the highest money-producing machines at a college. That being said, basketball here at PC had no choice but to start marketing their cash cow. Despite the amusement park atmosphere at basketball games, the main event is still the contest. No one goes to get the little white ball that the cheerleaders toss into the stands before the game for a free video rental, they go to watch a basketball game. So, on this point I must disagree with Mr. Reynolds. Promotions may not make the turnstile turn more often, but I hardly think they make it turn any less.

As far as the lack of interest in the student body.....hmmm, here we may be on to something.

Two weeks ago the aforementioned Marketing Department put on an event at Stuart's where all of the varsity coaches and some of the players on the winter teams, that is men's and women's Basketball and Hockey, were available to meet with students. Ten, count 'em, ten students came. Some just

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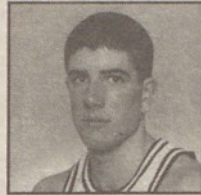
Luck of the Irish PC Falls to Notre Dame, 83-80

By GLADYS GANIEL '99
COWL STAFF

The Providence College men's basketball team ran into a case of Murphy's Law Tuesday night.

It wasn't just that everything that could go wrong, did go wrong for the Friars.

It was also that Notre Dame's 6-9 freshman forward Troy Murphy was a Law unto him-



Sean Connolly '02 30 points and 11 rebounds as the Fighting Irish defeated PC 80-83.

It was the Big East opener for the 6-3 Friars, who saw their six game winning streak come to a halt. Notre Dame improved to 4-5.

The list of misfortunes for

self. Murphy spun, dipped, and dunked his way to

the Friars was long. After coming out of the blocks with an 8-0 run and leading by as many as 12 early in the first half, PC fell behind by 15 with 1:57 to go before the break.

The Friars went cold from the floor, taking a number of perimeter shots that produced long rebounds. The Irish grabbed those boards and scurried downcourt for lay-ups.

Unable to score, PC didn't get the chance to set up its press. The Friars also began to reach on defense, picking up

frustration fouls.

PC gave up 14 uncontested lay-ups during the game, allowing the Irish to shoot 59% from the floor, including a 68% effort in the second half.

But the Friars' biggest problem was Murphy. Not only did he dominate throughout, he came up big down the stretch with poise against the Friars' rejuvenated defense and a calm stroke from the free throw line.

PC coach Tim Welsh had nothing but praise for the crafty **Basketball, Page 31**



SNAP SHOTS -
Providence's Corey Wright (Top left), Jamaal Camah (Top right), and Jamel Thomas during Tuesday night's Friars' three-point loss to Notre Dame.

Photos by PC Veritas

Women's Hockey Loses to Brown, 2-1; Coach Barto Announces Resignation

By JOHN ZILCH '01
SPORTS STAFF

On Wednesday, Dec. 10, the Providence College women's hockey team lost to Brown 2-1 at Schneider Arena. This may have been the easy loss for the Friars to swallow. On Tuesday afternoon, Coach Jackie Barto made it official that she would

leave Providence College to take a head coaching job at Ohio State University.

Coach Barto was in her fifth year with the Friars, and will leave for Ohio State with her assistant coach Kevin Cunningham. To say the least, Barto can be credited for building a superior team at Providence, and leaving the team in

good standings for the remainder of the season.

"It's a good opportunity and something I have to make the most of," says Barto. "I'm confident the team will be left in good hands."

The "good hands" will belong to Coach Bob Bellemore, who has been moved up from Assistant Coach. A former goal

tender at PC, Bellemore has been an assistant coach for the last six years and assisted in scouting amongst other duties in the past.

With the loss to Brown, Providence fell to 6-2-2 overall-still a very respectable record in a tough Eastern Coast Athletic Conference.

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'Good Luck With Finals!'

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